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Algeria

Ghozali Names Justice Minister, Media Officials

LD2107193891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] A presidential communique has announced that President Chadli Bendjedid today received Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who made certain proposals regarding government appointments.

In accordance with Article 75 of the Constitution, the president appointed Hamdane Benkhelil as minister of justice, in place of Ali Benflis, who asked to be relieved of his duties for personal reasons, and Mohamed Meghlaoui as minister delegate for housing.

[Paris AFP in English at 1908 GMT on 21 July in an Algiers-datelined report supplies the following:

["Mr. Bendjedid, acting on a proposal by Mr. Ghozali, named Bellahcene Zerrouki to replace Abdou Benzian as managing director of the state-run television company, according to officials. Mohamed Hamdi was replaced by Mohamed Merzoug as managing director of the official news agency APS, the sources said."]

FLN Session Continues Amid Disputes

LD2107092391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The ordinary session of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee is still open. This decision was made yesterday evening following four days of work on the proposal of Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri who, as we know, has been reelected to the post of Central Committee secretary general. In addition to this election, we also expected from this session the designation of a new politburo. This has not been done because of continuous differences over the new members. A large group in the Central Committee is reported to have opposed certain candidatures, particularly that of Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche. The former prime minister has been reproached for leaving the politburo while the FLN was going through a bad period. The commission of candidatures for the designation of a new politburo is continuing its consultations, and the members of this body will soon be known. The two other commissions, the one in charge of the preparation of the general elections and the one in charge of the preparation of the emergency congress of the party, are also continuing their consultations.

On the other hand, the session has adopted a statement of general policy. The main points of this document concern the attachment of the FLN to the principles of 1 November, coordination between the FLN representatives and the grass roots bodies of the party, pursuit of the edification of the Maghreb, and the support for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

This ordinary session of the FLN, which has been conducted in camera from the start, has also been marked by the resignation of Mr. Abdessalem Belaid from the FLN Central Committee.

New Politburo Announced

LD2007133291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee's ordinary session was crowned this morning by the reelection of Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri as secretary general, and by the election of a 14-member political bureau. Two committees were also formed: one to prepare the emergency congress, and the other to draw up a strategy for legislative elections. The Central Committee also released a statement on the political situation in the country.

Authorities Stress Ban on Marches, Gatherings

LD1907130791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The military authority in charge of implementing the state of seige has stressed in a new communique that the suspension of the curfew does not mean the suspension of the ban on marches, gatherings, and meetings in public squares and roads; and that measures stressing this ban will strictly remain in force. Any violation of these measures will be vigorously suppressed.

Islamic Front Council Members Released

LD2007161391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Sources close to the Islamic Salvation Front National Consultative Council report that some leading members of the council who were arrested during the recent events have been released. Among these is Cheikh Abdallah Hammouche, who got in touch with the council immediately after he was released. According to the same source, it is expected that Abderezzak Redjam, Omar Abdelkader, and Kamal Guemmazi, who are members of the council, will be released in the next few days.

Agenda for National Dialogue Meeting Reported

LD2207074791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Government organs have announced that Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali has sent messages to the political parties to invite them to meet with the government in order to lay the foundation for consultation and dialogue on all matters of national interest.

This initiative has been taken in accordance with previous commitments pledged by the head of government during consultations on the eve of forming his government and asserted before the National People's Assembly when he presented the government's program.

The meeting will be held on 30 and 31 July. Mr. Ghozali's proposed agenda in his meeting with the parties includes a review of the economic, social, and financial situation in the country and an exchange of viewpoints with party leaders on means of protecting and consolidating the democratic process, as well as consultations on the organization of a dialogue on legislative elections.

Egypt

Reports on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State

Baker Arrives in Cairo

NC1907124291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Cairo from Damascus this afternoon on a one-day visit during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. Baker will hold talks on the Middle East situation and the chances for peace following Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals.

Baker was welcomed at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs; and Assistant Foreign Minister Nuhad 'Asqalan. After his arrival, Baker immediately left to meet with President Mubarak.

Mubarak, Baker Hold News Conference

NC1907172791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—Following two hours of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, President Husni Mubarak held an international news conference at al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria this afternoon attended by Secretary Baker and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

President Mubarak announced that if Israel halts building settlements in the occupied Arab territories, it is possible that the Arab countries would take a corresponding step and end the Arab boycott of Israel. The president said such mutual steps will enhance the peace process' chances of success.

President Mubarak asserted: We are all concerned with achieving a comprehensive settlement so there is peace in the region, and the biggest winner in the peace process will be Israel.

During the news conference, James Baker said that if these mutual steps proposed by President Mubarak are adopted, it will improve the climate for peace in the region, Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and will promote the holding of a peace conference.

Responding to a question on whether Egypt will agree to host the peace conference, President Mubarak said: We have no objection to holding the conference in Cairo. If Cairo is chosen as the venue, we will welcome this. What is important, however, is not the venue of the conference, but the fact that it is held.

Asked whether the conference will be held soon, he replied: I hope it will be held within one or two months.

Asked if he had discussed his proposal for such mutual steps between Israel and the Arab countries with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the president said: I did not discuss this issue in a completely direct manner. I believe, however, that if Israel halts settlement building, the Arab side will initiate efforts to end the boycott.

Asked how much support such a proposal will find among Arab countries, he answered that many of them will support it.

Asked if this proposal constitutes an offer ['ard] or an idea [fikrah], the president said that it constitutes an offer. The president added: I believe a favorable response from the Arab side will be positive.

[passage omitted on Baker's remarks]

Asked his opinion on Palestinian representation at the conference, President Mubarak expressed his conviction that the Palestinian representation will be with Jordan and that this does not constitute a problem, but rather will facilitate the convening of the conference. [passage omitted on Baker's remarks]

Responding to a question on whether he has a message to address to Shamir, President Mubarak said peace is extremely precious, and added: I have often said this. Therefore, I say it is possible to halt the building of settlements in return for ending the Arab boycott. This will help in building confidence, which will contribute to establishing peace.

Responding to another question on whether there is any benefit to convening a bilateral meeting between Shamir and himself, President Mubarak said: I do not oppose meeting with Shamir. But I previously told Shamir that our meeting must take place to make careful study, not just for the sake of meeting, because holding a meeting without achieving positive results will have adverse results and could complicate all matters. [passage omitted on Baker's remarks]

Foreign Minister, Baker Confer

NC1907204291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a meeting this evening. They discussed the current efforts to bolster the Middle East peace process and the prospects of convening a peace conference. They also discussed current proposals to bring the views of the various parties closer and the steps that must be made to expedite the convocation of a peace conference.

Baker Departs for Saudi Arabia

NC2007135991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Cairo this afternoon for Saudi Arabia, the next leg of his Middle East tour.

President Mubarak received Baker yesterday to discuss ways to promote the Middle East peace process.

Baker also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on regional developments and ways to promote the peace efforts in light of the U.S. initiative to convene a peace conference.

While in Cairo, Baker also held talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the situation in Lebanon and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Awaits U.S. Decision on Peace Process

NC2207110591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that progress on the peace process depends on what happens next. Speaking to reporters after his speech at the National Democratic Party headquarters today, the president said: We are waiting to see what the U.S. Administration will do, and we will determine our next step on the basis of its decision.

Answering a question concerning Israel's rejection of his recent proposal, President Mubarak said: They are now in the stage when they discuss offers and and reject them. We must wait until the issue has developed further.

Boycott of Israel Could End if Settlement Halted

CM1907183291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Israel should stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. President Husni Mubarak said he believes that if this is done, the Arab countries can end the Arab boycott of Israel as a reciprocal step in a process of building confidence between the two sides.

In a statement after a session of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today, President Husni Mubarak said that if Israel continues to build settlements, it would mean that the Arabs would have no territory left to exchange for peace.

Mubarak Telephones King Fahd on Peace Process

NC2007190391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak tonight telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

President Mubarak and the Saudi king discussed current developments in the Middle East situation, the Arab position, and the peace process.

Mubarak, Jordanian Emissary Discuss Developments

NC2007191591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Jordanian royal court, at the al- Qubbah Palace tonight. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting.

Speaking after the meeting, Zayd Bin-Shakir said he conveyed a verbal message to President Mubarak from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal.

On the main topics he discussed with President Mubarak, he said that their talks dealt with coordination between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt and joint action on current issues, particularly the cause of peace and the prospects for holding a peace conference. He added that agreement was reached during the meeting on the need for the two countries to continue to coordinate on these questions.

Zayd Bin-Shakir said that Jordan will announce its views on the issues of peace and Israeli settlements during the talks U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will hold in Amman tomorrow, Sunday.

Asked whether there is a new assessment of the situation in the region in the wake of the Gulf war, he said: We are moving toward joint action, especially on this issue.

Replying to another question on whether there will be a meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn, he said: We are discussing this matter, and I do not rule it out.

Foreign Minister on Israeli Settlement Policy

NC2007123591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today stressed that the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories has become the most serious issue in the Middle East problem. If the building of settlements is not stopped, he said, the Arab parties will be unable to come to any agreement because there will be no land to negotiate about. He said that the continued building of settlements underlines the continued occupation of land and that should Israel agree to end its policy, the land would be saved. If Israel refuses,

however, we would expose its position before the international community to make it fully aware of their stand.

At a news briefing today, Musa said that Israel is demanding that the United States pay $12 to $14 billion to help it continue its settlement policy. This demand emphasizes Israel's desire to continue this policy, he said, adding that Egypt considers the Palestinian issue to be an important one. Egypt will continue its efforts to find a solution that will fulfill the Palestinian people's goals and guarantee their legitimate rights, the foreign minister said.

Musa said that the U.S. Middle East peace proposals provide for negotiations within the framework of a peace conference on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which emphasize the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force, the mutual obligations among the parties concerned, and the call for negotiations. He noted that intensive moves are currently under way following Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals, adding that Israel has to respond. If its response is positive, the negotiation process will begin within the framework of a peace conference and on the basis of the two Security Council resolutions. He said that the Arabs are prepared to negotiate on the basis of these two resolutions and that the peace process has reached an important juncture and has developed positively. Israel must respond to the efforts being made to start the negotiations process on the basis of the two Security Council resolutions, he said, because a good opportunity exists, particularly if the Israeli position develops and it agrees to negotiate.

Musa said that current developments aim to advance the peace process, foremost of which are the U.S. emphasis on the principle of land for peace, Europe's agreement on this principle, and the positive Arab response to the U.S. proposals. The foreign minister pointed out that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Egypt on 29 July is related to Egyptian efforts to prepare the ground and further push for the start of negotiations. Egypt will listen to his views and will convey to him Egypt's views about what it thinks needs to be done now, he added, stressing that Egypt's position is clear and can be summed up in the following:

1. Egypt will not accept or recognize the continued status quo under any circumstances.
2. The peace process is the main regional issue and anyone trying to obstruct it will have to bear the responsibility.
3. It is important to take measures to prepare the ground and create a climate conducive to starting the negotiations by ending the settlement policy and treating the people in the occupied land better in accordance with international law.

Musa said that Israel's opposition to the peace process and its lack of cooperation with U.S. efforts will neither lead to a better situation in the Middle East nor achieve stability. Israel must cooperate with and respond positively to these efforts, he emphasized, because peace is in its best interests. He said that Egypt is holding contacts to coordinate the stands of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians before negotiations actually begin. He stressed that Lebanon will be able to participate in the peace process when it establishes its authority nationwide. Musa underlined the importance of implementing Security Council Resolution 425 on Lebanon.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives, Holds Talks

Confers With Musa

NC2007101791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz met today and discussed the best way to coordinate their nations' stands on the Middle East peace process.

The Lebanese foreign minister briefed Musa on developments in Lebanon, particularly in the south, and emphasized Lebanon's stand on the peace conference. The Lebanese minister invited 'Amr Musa to visit Lebanon. Musa accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

Buwayz arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit to Egypt during which he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Meets Secretary Baker

NC2007125891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Cairo today.

Lebanese diplomatic sources have said that Buwayz will ask Secretary Baker to pressure Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and pull Israeli forces out of southern Lebanon now that the Lebanese Government has proven its ability to impose Lebanese legitimacy nationwide.

Buwayz arrived in Cairo last night to meet with Baker.

Comments on Talks, Departs

NC2007164591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Cairo this evening following a one-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, Buwayz held talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign liaison; and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East peace efforts. Buwayz also met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

In a departure statement, Buwayz said that he had told James Baker of "Lebanon's full right" to demand implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon.

Buwayz said that he also told Baker of Lebanon's total support for the U.S. proposals on holding a Middle East peace conference to secure implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Buwayz also noted that Egyptian officials had briefed him on Egypt's views on the future of the peace efforts.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas, Delegation Arrive

NC2107185191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a Palestinian delegation which will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the current efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

The Palestinian delegation was welcomed at the airport by Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

Foreign Minister Receives Delegation

NC2107195791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight met with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and his accompanying delegation. Discussion during the meeting focused on the recent developments in the Middle East crisis in light of Syria's positive response to the U.S. proposals that seek to advance the Middle East peace process, as well as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's fifth tour of the region, which is aimed at removing the obstacles to holding a peace conference.

Minister Musa and the PLO officials discussed President Mubarak's proposal for stopping Israel's settlement building and ending the Arab boycott against it. The two sides also reviewed recent developments in the Palestinian issue.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also attended the meeting.

'Abbas Comments on Visit

NC2107205191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Speaking after his meeting tonight with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) said that they reviewed recent international diplomatic efforts, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour, and the need for continued consultations and coordination with the brothers in Egypt.

He said that the purpose of the Palestinian delegation's visit is to discuss Baker's visit and to coordinate positions, especially as matters are proceeding seriously toward the convening of an international peace conference. We hope that a peace conference will be held, he added.

Mahmud 'Abbas explained that the Palestinian people want peace with Israel based on justice and recognition of their legitimate rights. These rights involve two points: first, complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories; and second, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Mahmud 'Abbas said that the Egyptian-Palestinian talks will continue. A Palestinian delegation is in Damascus and another is in Jordan, and other delegations are touring Arab countries to discuss recent developments in the area. He added: We still hope to achieve coordination among Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians. There is agreement in principle to hold a quadripartite meeting, but the venue and date of such a meeting have yet to be decided.

Two Men Shot Near Interior Minister's Home

NC2007173791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—One man was killed and another was wounded as they rode a motorbike against traffic in the street where Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa lives.

The men's actions aroused the suspicion of security forces stationed at the scene, who ordered the two to stop. The men tried to speed away, however, which caused the security men to open fire at them.

An investigation by al-Duqqi prosecutor Ahmad Salamah has determined that the dead man was Hamdi 'Abd-al-Hafiz, 31, an electrician. The wounded man is 'Abd-al-Rahim Dardir, 28.

The prosecutor's office has ordered that the weapons used by the security guards be impounded as evidence. An autopsy will be performed upon the body of 'Abd-al-Hafiz to ascertain the cause of death. Dardir was admitted into Umm-al-Masriyyin Hospital for treatment.

The wounded man as well as the security servicemen involved in the shooting will be questioned tonight.

'Wrong Turn' Cited; Detainee Freed

NC2007204791 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, July 20 (MENA)—'Abd-al-Rahim Dardir, who was wounded as his fellow motorcycle rider was shot dead this midday before the residence of Interior

Minister Major-General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, told the al-Duqqi district prosecutor that they had taken the wrong turn by mistake while driving on their way to repair a citizen's refrigerator.

The two electricians were taken aback upon being challenged.

As his fellow was not carrying a driving license, he decided to speed away whereupon sentinels opened fire.

The prosecution ordered that the custody decreed for Dardir be lifted.

Libya

Iraqi Minister, Delegation Arrive 21 Jul

LD2107223691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah.

The brother secretary of the Jamahiriyah's General People's Committee for Sports was present at the reception of the Iraqi delegation.

Mauritania

President Signs New Constitution

AB2107163091 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Nouakchott, July 21 (AFP)—Mauritanian leader Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has signed a new Constitution approved by over 98 percent of the electorate in a referendum on July 12, government sources said here Sunday. The constitution provides for election of a president and national assembly by universal suffrage, an indirectly elected senate and a constitutional council. The president is to appoint a prime minister. The new bodies are to be formed within nine months of the signing of the Constitution.

Under the new constitution Mauritania is defined as an "Arab and African Islamic Republic" with Arabic as the official language.

Bahrain

Syrian Stance, Egyptian Proposal Welcomed

JN2107194991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1921 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Manama, 21 Jul (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry said that the Bahraini Government has been following th.2 recent developments in the Arab and international arenas to promote the peace process in the Middle East. The source added that Bahrain be'ieves that achieving a just, lasting, and ("comprehensive) solution to the Palestine question should rest on the principles of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The source told WAKH that the State of Bahrain welcomes the positive stance of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to promote the peace process by its acceptance to participate in the planned peace conference. The State of Bahrain also welcomes the statements of President Husni Mubarak of the fraternal Republic of Egypt, in which he asked Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories so that Arab countries can take a reciprocal step toward ending the Arab boycott of Israel and boost the efforts being made by the United States to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Oman

State To Support 'man To End Boycott on Israel

JN2107182691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Muscat, 21 Jul (WAKH)—The Sultanate of Oman has announced that it will support the suggestion made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last Friday to end the Arab boycott of Israel in exchange for Israel's halting the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, convening an international peace conference, and starting negotiations on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

A responsible source at the Omani Foreign Ministry told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY this evening that this stance is in line with the Sultanate's desire to promote efforts for a peace conference between the Arabs and Israel.

The source added that the Sultanate of Oman urges Israel to adopt a positive stance toward the U.S. proposals and the positive Arab initiative so as to expedite the conference and start serious negotiations for a lasting, comprehensive peace.

Qatar

Foreign Min'try Supports Current Peace Moves

JN2107204191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Doha, 21 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has asserted its support for all sincere efforts at resolving the fateful issues of the Arab nation in general, the Palestine question in particular, by finding a just and comprehensive solution to it and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict on a just and acceptable basis, inspired by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The State of Qatar also reasserts that setting up Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is a serious violation of international law and UN resolutions and obstructs peace efforts in the Middle East.

A responsible source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY that the State of Qatar appreciates the positive Syrian stance under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to promote the peace process by accepting participation in a peace conference. The State of Qatar has also followed the statements of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in which he expressed the possibility of the Arab countries' taking an appropriate step to stop the Arab boycott of Israel when it stops building settlements.

The State of Qatar also appreciates the efforts being made by friendly countries, including the United States, to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

Saudi Arabia

Secretary Baker Arrives in Jeddah 20 Jul

LD2007165691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1633 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Jul (SPA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Jeddah this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom as part of his current tour of a number of countries of the region.

He was welcomed at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, ambassador of the Kingdom to the United States; Mr. Salim Sunbul, director general of the Foreign Ministry office in the western region; 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad al-Nuwaysir, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Air Force Lieutenant General Salih al-Sudays, commander of the western region; and a number of officials.

Bush, Fahd Review Recent Developments, Peace Process

LD2107181991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1722 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush this afternoon, Sunday.

During the conversation they reviewed the situation and recent developments in both the Arab and international arenas. They also discussed everything that could serve the issues of the Arab region and the mutual interests of the two friendly countries, and could give impetus to the peace process.

Statement on Suspension of Boycott, Settlements

LD2007231991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Jul (SPA)—An official spokesman has made the following statement in the name of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed with total interest the positive stance adopted by the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to push forward the peace process by agreeing to participate in the peace conference that is intended to be held. It has also followed with total interest the statements by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the effect that Israel should halt the construction of settlements and in such an event the Arab states could take an appropriate step and halt the Arab boycott of Israel as a gesture to encourage the efforts currently being made to attain peace in the Middle East.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that it shares with the rest of the Arab brothers a single objective outlook vis-a-vis the fateful issues of the region in general and the question of Palestine in particular. Thus, it intends to reach a genuine peace, in accordance with the UN resolutions, which consecrates justice, restores lawful rights to their owners, and lays down firm foundation for coexistence, security, and stablity, proceeding from international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Within this framework the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given its full support and total backing to the efforts that have been and are being made by the United States to end the Arab-Israeli coflict and bring about a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has participated and is still participating, with the rest of the Arab brothers who are sincere about the fate of this nation and concerned about its sublime interests, in giving momentum to these efforts in order to attain the common aims. It has undertaken its historic duties in relation to security, peace, and stablity in the world by seriously and constructively working to end the causes of tension and disturbance in the region and in the world, and particularly by sincerely and constructively searching for a peaceful and just settlement of the Palestinian issue, the restoration of lawful rights to the people of Palestine, and the ending of the Arab-Israeli conflict on just, practical, and acceptable bases.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already declared on several occasions, whether in international arenas, or in meetings that the Kingdom's leaders have held with various world leaders, that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is considered a grave violation of international law and ad hoc UN resolutions, and also constitutes a major obstacle to the attempts that are in progress and the efforts being exerted to attain peace in the Middle East. These settlements are aimed at changing the demographic character of the occupied territories and at imposing a fait accompli. This does not help to ensure justice, security, and stability in the region, which can be done only by arriving at a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue, emanating from international legality and based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. For this reason, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the contents of the statement by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the desire for peace must impose itself on all sides, and in this context, it wishes to reaffirm that it stands on the side of any sincere effort to achieve peace, and that it will not hesitate to make the utmost efforts in this direction.

Foreign Minister on Peace Efforts, Baker Visit

LD2107203691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1747 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Jul (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said: Peace and security in the region are the aim of every Arab country, and this endeavor must be encouraged and supported.

In a press statement before the departure of the U.S. secretary of state from Jeddah today, his highness stated: The Saudi Arabian Government supports the Syrian stance presented by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria's substantial efforts to reach a positive point on the path of the peace that is aspired to in this region of the world, in light of the current circumstances and facts.

The foreign minister said that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports the U.S. secretary of state's efforts to reach positive results in the attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute, and that it encourages and supports Secretary James Baker's efforts. His highness said: The government appreciates the efforts made by James Baker during his talks with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. It believes that the positive points that the talks produced will lead to the best results. The government also appreciates Secretary Baker's continued shuttle trips to the region and the

results of the industrial countries' talks in London last week regarding Middle East peace efforts.

His highness praised the stance of Syrian President al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', as well as the explicit efforts made by the Syrian leadership in the cause of peace in the region. He also praised President Mubarak's and his foreign minister's great efforts, which led to an opening in the peace talks. He asserted that Saudi Arabia intends to cooperate in this respect by pushing forward the peace efforts that have been made to hasten the solution of the conflict in the region by peaceful means.

His excellency expressed hopes that the U.S. secretary of state will succeed in his pursuit of positive results for a solution of the Palestinian problem. He said: "The Saudi stance toward boycotting Israel was clearly expressed in the statement issued last night." He stressed that to enable the peace efforts to succeed, Israel should stop building settlements.

He stated: "Everyone in this region is looking forward to working in an atmosphere of peace and stability, free of tension. The Saudi Government encourages this positive action for the benefit of the region so it may enjoy peace like all the other countries."

His highness the foreign minister stressed that the desire for peace should be shown by deeds and not by words and statements, and that Saudi Arabia has actually declared its position by the statement that it issued last night. He expressed the hope that the rest of the countries of the region will follow in the footsteps of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

He declared that the Arab wish for peace is real and exists, and that it is now up to the other side.

For his part, U.S. Secretary of State Baker expressed his thanks to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques; Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; and the Saudi Government for the perceptive leadership and positive stance toward his mission in the Middle East and toward the peace efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stated that as part of his current tour he will visit Jordan today. He said he hopes to obtain the same positive stance toward his objective of successfully solving the conflict.

In reply to a question about the Arab economic and commercial boycott of Israel, he said: "If Israel stops building settlements and responds to the peace efforts, then Saudi Arabia will look into the boycott issue."

King Fahd, Mubarak Discuss Regional Developments

LD2107181291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a telephone call from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. During the conversation views were exchanged on the development of events in the Arab region. Ways of bolstering cooperation in various fields between the two brotherly countries, in the service of Arab and Islamic issues, were also discussed.

United Arab Emirates

'Full Support' Expressed for U.S. Peace Efforts

JN2107194391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Jul (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has praised the statements of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the need to stop building settlements in the Arab territories as a basic step to end the Arab boycott of (?Israel).

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that in light of the recent positive developments and the contacts and efforts under way to advance the peace process, and in line with its constant position to establish peace and stability in the region, the UAE expresses its full support and backing for the efforts being made by the United States to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve a (?comprehensive solution) to the Palestine question to establish peace and stability in the region.

The statement, which was carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, praised the positive, constructive Syrian stance under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to participate in the planned peace conference on the Middle East.

Saddam Addresses Wasit Governorate Group

JN1907155491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn said that we will never hand this country over to people who have no roots or origins because we are a people with roots and origins. The president affirmed that the banner: God is Great cannot be borne by just any person if that person does not have real roots. Only those who have real roots can erect a building of which people can be proud.

Receiving a delegation from Wasit Governorate, including a group of men of religion, tribal chieftains, dignitaries from the governorate's cities, towns, and villages, heads and members of people's councils, and some of the governorate's educators, his excellency said the Arabs are capable of bearing this message and spreading it to humanity.

The president said: We are true to our principles. We are all one body, God willing. We are all right, God willing. We also confront injustice wherever it is found.

Addressing the audience, his excellency said that the lofty sword shall remain theirs and nobody else's. It is the sword of all good people.

Our role is now to build as we used to build and continue building quickly. We have to bandage our wounds and proceed, God willing. Your doors are wide open on the road of good and closed in the face of all evil.

We are good builders. We are not here to ride our horses all day long. We are not invaders, but builders. At the same time, however, we are guardians in the face of all who wish to destroy. [passage omitted]

His excellency added: Therefore, we need to meet with the dignitaries of society so that they can carry our voice to the furthest points, to the people who contact them and whom they represent. In this way we will have tied the banner and hoisted it to a higher position.

You know that I admit mistakes whether I committed them or others have. This is one of the virtues Almighty God urges people to have. The Prophet Muhammad's life, God's peace and blessings be upon him, followed this course. The lives of the Prophet's companions also followed this course.

One of the mistakes of our march—although I have been warning of this since 1969, during a meeting of peasant societies at al- Khuld Hall in Baghdad—which I warned about, was the dangerous practice of blaming the mistakes of the feudal system on dignitaries and chieftains and blaming all that happened in the past and all that has anything to do with its various phases on the people who were classified as feudalists. It is one part of Iraq's history, where they gave land to certain people. These people did not ask for the land. They were just given the land. They chose and distributed the land to the masters and dignitaries. We have done our best to distribute this land to others. This effort started before us. We just continued it.

We should not lose the people and their dignitaries. We ought to explain to them what is necessary regarding politics and help them because they are a part of our people, kinfolk, and family. There has not been the required closeness between dignitaries and party members at their duties. In other words, the closeness we wanted and wished for did not take place. I have to admit here that we did not follow up the issue to solve this problem. To solve the problem we need to follow up on it and set it within a solid framework to bring us to a sound relationship. [passage omitted]

You have done a lot over the past 23 years. However, I consider all that we have achieved as little, when viewed against the Iraqis' potential. This means that I believe that what we have done over the past 23 years is little, despite the fact that I take great pride in it. This is because I have my own vision for Iraq and the nation—a vision stipulating that Iraq and the nation deserve more. [passage omitted]

Since we seek to build a country of great stature—a country whose principles and acts influence others—we have to make persistent efforts and further strengthen the resolve of those with strong determination and bolster the resolve of those with weak determination to remind them of their role. This talk is not meant to prepare horses for combat or to unsheathe swords. It is meant to rise to greater heights in construction. It remains to be said that the edifice which does not have swords and men to protect it can be demolished or turned into rubble over the heads of those who built it.

We have seen this in the experience we went through. Notice now that the enemies have persisted. Some people have forgotten. Almighty God has bestowed on people the grace of forgetfulness for many reasons. It is because He knows that man needs it so that he will not remain a victim of troubles and sadness, God forbid. Some people have forgotten this. However, their policy has now been exposed, thanks to their continuous aggression, the maintenance of the blockade, and their persistence in making new demands on us daily. Every day, they say: You have put your feet in the water. However, we are not preventing them from using the spring. God willing, we are at the spring for good reasons. This is a simile.

Every day, they come up with a new pretext. That is why some people began to link issues and say that all their attempts are targeting construction. They do not want to see construction rise to greater heights. However, God willing, we will it make rise.

Ravens always exist. The reference here applies to those who came from across the borders and also to some cases where some people made missteps. However, good people form the majority. Moreover, we have not lost any good people, God be praised for this. Even some of

those who were confounded a little straightened out quickly, God be praised. This is what we want. It is our duty and it is the right of good people that we remind people whenever they become perplexed, that we straighten them out, and that we return their cloaks to their proper position whenever they slide.

His excellency the president added: With this spirit, we can cross all marshes regardless of the number of serpents and crocodiles that may exist in them, depending on the resolve of good people and the patience of glorious women. This time, they put strong pressure on the glorious women with their air bombardment. Some of the women saw this for the first time, because the combat only involved men at the front during the eight-year war.

His excellency continued: Some of the women underwent a change of heart and weakened. But, they later straightened out. Specifically, this took place in cities, and in Baghdad in particular. This is because life has its own details. For instance, for the past 50 years, Baghdad residents have been used to opening water faucets and seeing the water flow. Here, I am not referring to people who came to Baghdad from rural areas, because these people still remember the kind of life that they led there and can put up with inconveniences. However, for the past 50 years, there are people who have seen water flow from the faucets whenever they turn them on. During the aggression, they did not see water flowing from the faucet. That is why you find the morale of tribal chieftains and people who live in rural areas greater than in the city. Their endurance was greater. The kind of life they led was difficult. They went through hard times. That is why their makeup can put up with difficulties.

In the meantime, they remember the acts of injustice that could have been inflicted on them. Even those who are viewed as big feudalists by politicians and parties remember how the situation was difficult at a certain point in time and know that their situation has improved. Hence, their endurance is greater.

His excellency added: We are clearly for justice. We will not hand over this country to people without roots, since we are not without roots. Anyone without real roots is not fit to carry the banner of God is Great. Only people with roots are fit to build an edifice of which good people may be proud.

God forbid, if you should happen to acquire all the Swiss banks and lose your mind, you would come out worse off. This sort of situation is lost on many people, but those in positions of leadership must understand it. We can understand an ordinary human being continually pushing an elevator's up and down buttons without realizing the potential damage, but it will not do for someone to be at the helm if he fails to appreciate the value of leadership, or how to build a nation.

When we say, glorious Iraqis, someone retorts: I do not want to be glorious, what right have you? We will tell him: It is our duty to make you one and close the doors that detract from your glory.

When we address Iraqi women and say: Glorious Iraqi women, and, God forbid, one stood and said: I do not want to be glorious, our answer would be the same. If you do not want to be glorious, we are responsible to God, the people, the Constitution, and law and principles. All of these are values and it is our duty to speak to you as a glorious woman so that we may instill glory in you. But if you should rebel and do not want to be a glorious woman, we are pained. But before God, the people, and your kin you will have the sole responsibility for this attitude. So, brothers, you have a major task ahead of you. Don't become restless or bored.

First and foremost, we do not want to commit aggression against anyone. Would you let anyone commit aggression against you? Would you care if anyone snatched your headdress and threw it on the ground? Would you let someone trample your shawl underfoot without gouging out their eyes? We cannot do otherwise. We cannot but carry the sword of the good. When someone commits aggression against Iraq, we will not kiss their hand. Whoever brandishes a sword against Iraq will not have his hand kissed, God willing. But if you should see anyone committing aggression against any part of Iraq, all of you are duty bound to say to the potential aggressor among us that he should not because God does not care for aggression. But we will not be indifferent to those who want to commit aggression against us. They have to be deterred.

His excellency said that we know how to build. You good people saw the state we were in 23 years ago. You also saw it 10 years ago, and 12 years ago. Therefore, who did all this building? It was built by this generation. We are good builders. We have not been riding our horses all the time. We are not invaders, but builders. However, at the same time there are some among us who are guards and keepers, defending what has been built when someone wants to demolish it. Those people will be forced to brandish their swords against him. This is our policy. Such a policy needs all the men and women available. However, the hierarchy starts with the good people first—the good people according to their positions, influence, and stands. And so it goes.

A great deal of glory has been achieved. And a huge amount of building has been realized, despite what they destroyed. However, a huge part of the heart, the determination, and energy of the believers has not been destroyed. The belief of your sons, brothers, and comrades—and comrade here means believing in the same thing—is great. They are daily performing immense achievements in building, the kind of which we can be proud. We are also proud of people who perform. Some people who are mentally retarded, who lack belief, have shaky vision, or lack the ability to analyze, are living off cheap propaganda. They choose dates and occasions and claim that something might happen on 28 April. That

date came and passed. Then they said something will happen on 15 June. What is this "something?" Are we being auctioned off?

These good people are present. What is this "something?" Where does it come from? It is a situation that should not have happened. It happened under certain circumstances. So what is this new thing? God protect you from all those who do not take the just and straight path.

After that they said something will happen on 17 July. Something good, God willing. Tell them to have the Merciful in their hearts and souls. Do not continue to say such things. You see, some good people who repeat such things, and say we heard this from so and so, sometimes forget who they heard it from. The intention of evil people is similar to the saying used in the countryside: They injure your hand to prevent you from working and being productive. Your brain remains preoccupied with possibilities, nothing else.

Each one of us should do his work, perform his role, and adhere to his plans. This country is protected by you and all the good people. Now our role is to build as we used to do and continue building speedily. We have to bandage wounds and proceed, God willing. Your doors are open wide before the road to good and blocked before all evil. Blessings come from you.

Responding to remarks by one of the speakers that the enemies say all Iraqis are Saddam, his excellency the president said: We exchange names with all good people. The good name of Mahmud is our name. The good name Muhammad is our name. The good name 'Abbas is also our name. And the name Saddam, if you believe it is good, is a name for all of us. Good people exchange names among themselves. Each one of them will also live with his name. We depend on God and continue on our march of construction. Your head shall always remain high with dignity. The good the Iraqi people want is coming, God willing, and along with it comes dignity, since material things without dignity and belief are worth nothing.

The president was received with popular chants and slogans, and much applause. A number of delegation members delivered speeches and read poetry expressing the masses' love for and pride in the wise leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn and their great willingness to defend Iraq.

Political Prisoners, Others Granted Amnesty

JN2107122591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1133 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued two decisions. The first grants general amnesty for Iraqis fleeing for political reasons and calls for a complete halt to all legal measures against them, regardless of whether they are inside or outside Iraq. The amnesty covers Iraqis remanded in custody or imprisoned on political grounds. The decision exempts any citizen or employee from legal prosecution for any action they may have committed while performing their duty in combating or dealing with the crimes listed therein.

The second decision stipulates a general amnesty for those who committed the crime of deserting or failing to report to military service and the crime of fleeing the country during their military service, and calls for a complete halt to all measures against them, with the exception of officers.

The following is the text of the decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
RCC Decision No. 241, dated 21 July 1991.

As Iraq begins a new political era, namely that of public, grass roots participation through party pluralism and representative elections at all levels, and as God the Almighty commanded amnesty wherever it was possible and beneficial, saying in His lofty book: And the remission is the nearest to righteousness [Koranic verse]: To give those who have deviated from the right path and still claim patriotism a chance to help begin a new chapter in our national life and our great struggle, in which all join in the building and defense of Iraq, banded like the bracelet around the wrist to safeguard a capable, thriving Iraq that has proved too tough for enemies and a lighthouse for friends and children of the Arab nation, and with reference to the provisions of paragraph (a) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

The two decisions of the RCC:

1. The general amnesty will cover the following:
A. Iraqis—inside and outside the country—who are on the run for political reasons. All legal proceedings pending against them are herewith terminated.
B. Iraqis remanded in custody or jailed on political grounds are to be set free immediately, unless they were convicted on other charges.
C. Citizen or employees are exempt from prosecution for actions committed in performance of their duty to combat or deal with the crimes listed in this decision. All pertinent pending cases are closed. Courts are forbidden to hear any cases brought before them in connection with any of the actions covered by this decision.

2. This decision will be published in the Official Gazette and takes effect on the date of its release. (signed) Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

RCC Decision No. 242, dated 21 July 1991.

Based on the provisions of paragraph (a) of the Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. The following shall benefit from a general amnesty:
A. Deserters from military service, draft dodgers, and those who fled the country during their military service. All legal proceedings pending against them are to be terminated, whether they are inside or outside Iraq, with the exception of army officers.
B. Any citizen or employee who may have committed any action while they were performing their duty in combating or dealing with any of the crimes listed therein. All pending cases against them are to be suspended. Courts are forbidden from hearing any cases brought against them in connection with any of the actions covered by this decision.

2. Article A of paragraph 1 of this decision covers those who surrendered themselves or were apprehended during the period from 20 March 1991 up to the enforcement of this decision.

3. This decision will be published in the Official Gazette and takes effect on the date of its release.

4. The prime minister will see to its implementation.

(signed) Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Official Denies Military Operations in Wetlands

JN2007123491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1213 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has denied that Iraq wants to carry out military operations in the wetlands or any other area of its territory, as some biased newspapers and circles have reported.

In a reply message he sent to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, he said that the duty of the military units in that area is aimed at preventing infiltration from the Iranian side and also preventing infiltrators and others from committing ordinary crimes in cities and villages, as has occurred in the past.

He said that local authorities must perform this task as part of their duty to maintain law and order and protect the lives and property of citizens.

The minister added in his letter: The Iraqi Government understands that the noble task Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan is performing is restricted to humanitarian relief and to encouraging displaced citizens and refugees to return to their homes. He affirmed that the infiltrators do not exist in the abovementioned region.

He stressed Iraq's concern over full and continued cooperation with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan to guarantee the success of his task and to adhere to all the paragraphs of the memorandum of understanding signed between Iraq and the United Nations.

Iran Accused of Masterminding Unrest in North

JN1907181991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Iraq has accused Iran of masterminding recent riots in the cities of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah.

In a statement to INA, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, said that Iranian elements and other Iranian agents had infiltrated the border. Some of them were arrested and found in possession of money to be distributed to their agents.

The minister added that it seemed the Iranian regime was indulging its whims and carrying out abortive attempts to hinder the agreement with the Kurdistan Front.

Concluding his statement, the minister said the situation in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil returned to normal yesterday and that there was close coordination between government authorities and the Kurdistan Front leadership to prevent Iranian agents from attempting to realize their aim of disrupting the agreement.

Barzani on Agreement, 'Riots' in North

JN1907181091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1726 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has announced that the final agreement between the central government and the Kurdish parties has been completed and will be announced within a short time.

Addressing a news conference attended by correspondents of CNN and CNN as well as AFP, INA, and Iraqi radio and television representatives, Barzani said that the Kurdish parties are determined to reach agreement with the central government to realize the positive results to strengthen the democratic process and build Iraq.

Referring to some Western media reports on riots in the al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil governorates, Barzani said devious elements are trying to place obstacles in the path of the central government.

Barzani said that parasitic elements have invented these incidents with the aim of influencing people in the two governorates and to realize their own aims.

Barzani pointed out that conditions in the two governorates are stable, affirming that the law must take its course in order to punish the rioters.

He described the dialogue with the central government as proceeding in a positive atmosphere. It is hoped this dialogue will soon result in an agreement.

He said: Had we been operating as two different sides, we would have signed a fragile agreement. We are working as one team to build the Iraq of the future.

Mr. Barzani added: We are examining the agreement very closely and accurately, paragraph by paragraph, to avoid any loopholes. The agreement has been finalized, but its declaration will take place soon.

Mr. Mas'ud Barzani said that the law on parties that is being legislated includes many positive elements. Discussions are currently taking place regarding this law to formulate a democratic law which would allow party pluralism in Iraq.

He pointed out that the Kurdish Front delegation held four meetings last week with the central government. These meetings will resume tomorrow to continue dialogue in a totally positive atmosphere.

Responding to a question on the return of Mr. Jalal Talabani to the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Mr. Mas'ud Barzani clarified that Talabani's return to the region has to do with affairs of the Kurdistan Front which he has to tackle. He denied that there are any disputes between him and Jalal Talabani.

Barzani hoped that a democratic climate will prevail in Iraq in the coming phase under the canopy of a multiparty system in which the freedom of the press is secured to build a new democratic Iraq.

On the possibility of achieving democracy in Iraq under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Mas'ud Barzani said: Democracy as the West understands it is different from what we seek for our people in Iraq. We (?understand) the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. When parties manage to play their roles, and when there is a multiparty system, that will be a great change for us.

Mas'ud Barzani noted the draft laws on parties and the press, and the draft constitution, as well as the guarantees required for implementing them, saying that democracy in Iraq is the most important guarantee in this regard.

Barzani said: The experience of the past 20 years was sufficient for us to spread an atmosphere of mutual trust and hold a positive dialogue through which we hope to achieve peace in Iraqi Kurdistan. He added that the lack of trust during the past period was counterproductive. It prompted us all to walk a new path.

Mas'ud Barzani went on to say that the best path for this is the path of peace, autonomous rule, and [word indistinct].

Barzani Briefs UN Official on Negotiations

JN1907193691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Mr. Matsumoto, deputy coordinator of the United Nation's relief program in Iraq [name and title as received], met with Mr. Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, who is currently heading the delegation of the Kurdistan Front to dialogue with the government.

Mr. Barzani explained during the meeting that what happened in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil yesterday was a passing incident.

Mr. Barzani said that negotiations with the government are progressing very well. Two essential points of dispute have been solved already; they are the issue of autonomy and the issue of restoring normal life to the north.

Mr. Barzani added: We will work to restore normal life in the northern region.

Mr. Barzani pointed out that he expects an agreement to be signed with the government next week.

Mr. Matsumoto expressed his thanks to Mr. Barzani for these assurances. He said he will convey them by telephone immediately to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN special envoy to Iraq.

Barzani on Events in North, Autonomy Agreement

JN2207090691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Mr. Mas'ud Barzani said that foreign hands were behind recent events in the cities of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah that targeted Iraq's security, interests, and sovereignty.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH published here today, he stressed that the government's current course is very positive and serves all forces in Iraq, as well as the Arab and Kurdish forces. Mr. Barzani also expressed the hope that all Iraqis will respond to President Saddam Husayn's call to turn over a new leaf to reconstruct Iraq. He noted that Iraq's interests are above all considerations, and the Arab-Kurdish brotherhood is the solid rock upon which all conspiracies founder.

Mr. Mas'ud Barzani noted that the dialogue and agreement on autonomy is proceeding toward finalization, that it will be announced soon, that all the factions of the Kurdish people strongly support the agreement, and that they hope the Kurdish cause will come out of the circle of the international game.

He added that the current talks are comprehensive and will end with an agreement, with all its clauses, particularly a law on parties that includes positive elements. He said that discussion on the proposals to enrich and strengthen this law would be resumed within the next two days.

Mr. Mas'ud Barzani expressed astonishment at what is being propagated by the foreign propaganda trumpets, through statements that have nothing to do with the leaders of the Kurdish parties. He said: The Kurds and

Arabs have agreed to forget the past and to struggle for a prosperous future for our Iraqi people, Arabs, Kurds, and minorities. The agreement is a sound step to close all doors to foreign interference.

He said the presence of the Kurdish parties front in Baghdad is in itself a final agreement, and that the issue is related only to the time of announcing the agreement. He stressed that the borders of the autonomous region do not at all mean that we are setting borders between two states. The borders of the Iraqi state are the borders of the Republic of Iraq, and we are concerned, more than any other citizen, about national unity, and Iraq's sovereignty and unity. Barzani affirmed that the Kurdish factions are determined to favor the national option above all other options. The Kurdish cause has its own characteristics, and no matter how long it takes, it must be resolved in Iraq, and particularly in Baghdad.

Mr. Barzani spoke about the Western news media reports, saying that not everything reported by the Western press and radios is true, because they do not carry Kurdish statements honestly. There is much distortion that does not reflect the opinion of the Kurds and their leaders. He denied any differences among the Kurdish factions, or between the Kurdish parties front and the central government. He said that the announcement of the agreement will change all rumors and counter all propaganda.

Red Cross: Kurds Hold 1,200 Iraqi Prisoners

AU2107152491 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Geneva, July 21 (AFP)—International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) representatives counted 1,200 Iraqi soldiers held prisoner by Kurdish rebels in the al-Sulaymaniyah and Sayid Sadek areas of northern Iraq, a spokeswoman for the ICRC said here Sunday [21 July].

There were also 660 wounded in hospitals in the areas following an outbreak of hostilities between the Iraqi Army and Kurds last Wednesday, said Karen Saddler. The ICRC had no information about the number of Kurds in Iraqi hands, she added.

The health situation in the region is serious, Mrs. Saddler said, with a lack of medical supplies, food and spare parts.

Clandestine Reports 20,000 Flee al-Sulaymaniyah

NC2107140691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Thousands of citizens have left al-Sulaymaniyah and taken refuge in areas controlled by the people. A representative of a humanitarian organization in Baghdad has told foreign correspondents that 20,000 citizens have fled al-Sulaymaniyah in the past two days. The source, who insisted on anonymity, pointed out that those who fled are staying in Banjwin and Halabjah and have not proceeded to Iran.

UN sources in Baghdad have reported that the defeated regime is massing troops south of al-Sulaymaniyah. Humanitarian organizations in al-Sulaymaniyah said that clashes between the tyrant's forces and citizens left between 80 and 200 dead. One official pointed out that [words indistinct] wounded are still in crowded hospitals in al-Sulaymaniyah. He said that 39 of those in serious condition are receiving treatment at UN [words indistinct].

Spokesman for (?humanitarian) organizations also said that the citizens have captured 1,200 of the tyrant's officers and soldiers. They added that the captured soldiers will be released promptly, but officers will be treated differently and will be exchanged for prisoners held by the regime.

A citizen who left al-Sulaymaniyah said that the city looks like a true battleground.

Red Cross Evacuates 44 Injured in Clashes

LD2007160491 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says it has evacuated more than 40 people who were injured during fighting between Iraqi troops and Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq.

An ICRC statement issued in Geneva said delegates evacuated a group of 29 people from an Iranian hospital at Paveh, just across the Iraqi border. The statement said a second group of 15 people had been taken to al-Sulaymaniyah, where the ICRC is assessing further aid measures.

On 20 July a United Nations spokesman in Geneva said upto 500 people were either killed or wounded in two days of fighting in the towns of al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil. [passage omitted]

Report on Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah Clashes

NC2007190191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Unattributed talk "on the recent demonstrations in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah"]

[Text] On 18 July a soldier at the (al-Fardaw) camp, near al- Sulaymaniyah, opened fire at a vehicle belonging to the Kurdistani [word indistinct] committee in the city in which members of an official mission that was to deliver a message from the committee to the camp commander were traveling. Two valiant peshmergas were martyred as a result of this unjustified attack and others were wounded. As soon as the news reached al-Sulaymaniyah, the masses took to the streets to express their anger over the incident, which they regarded as another link in the

chain of repressive and inhuman practices the authority's services in the city are continuing to adopt, despite the sensitive circumstances and the people's unfriendly feelings toward the authorities, which are the result of the legacy of racist and terrorist policies pursued by the authorities and their security services during the past years.

The demonstrations of the angry masses resulted in the storming of all government installations and offices. The masses took control of the various ramparts and barriers established by the security authorities in alleys and streets and on rooftops within the city. For their part, the authorities opened fire on the citizens and used heavy artillery and mortars to shell the protesting masses indiscriminately. According to preliminary information we have received, the popular uprising in al-Sulaymaniyah resulted in the more than 50 civilians being martyred and 200 more wounded within the city. The authorities also arrested more than 200 people at checkpoints outside the city. In addition, no fewer than 10 of our valiant peshmergas were martyred and over 40 were wounded. A total of 280 soldiers were killed and more were wounded and 2,500 soldiers and officers, including 40 to 50 officers with ranks ranging from second lieutenant to brigadier general, were captured. The masses also burned 18 tanks and seized 11 others, which were later returned when guarded calm was restored in the city.

It is noteworthy that during the demonstrations in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah, the authorities adopted the same methods they used in the past to respond to the people's demands. The indiscriminate artillery shelling in Irbil, for example, killed or wounded a large number of people. Two families were completely annihilated when shells fell on their houses. The regrettable situation, the victims who fell, and the blood shed during the demonstrations in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah, particularly at this critical time, could have been avoided had the authorities adopted a different approach to respond to the masses' democratic and humanitarian demands.

The Iraqi Government and the authorities in Kurdistan must understand and accept the urgent popular demands and try to keep an open mind so they can move closer to the citizens and help solve their problems by appreciating their suffering, hardships, and tragic circumstances. Violence and a policy of iron and steel can never subdue the masses, as was shown during the popular uprising this March and during the many demonstrations not only in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah, but also in Zakho, Dahuk, and other places. The attempt to blame foreign parties for creating this crisis is designed to divert attention away from the just demands of the masses.

Clandestine Report of Engineers' 'Disappearance'

NC2007134691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Some 230 of the 733 oil well fires set by the tyrant's forces before they withdrew from Kuwait had been extinguished by yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN reported today that British engineers working to put out the fires disappeared under mysterious circumstances two days ago while traveling in a vehicle flying the British flag. The paper said that helicopters are being used to search for them.

Saddam Husayn Reportedly Executes Army Officer

NC1907163291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Tyrant Saddam recently carried out the death sentence on Special Forces Staff Lieutenant General Wajim 'Umar 'Adil as part of the series of death sentences he is implementing against high-ranking Iraqi Army commanders and other officers. The sentences are being implemented after the officers are charged with refraining from suppressing the popular uprising in the country. Lt. Gen. Wajim was an Iraqi Army corps commander and had been awarded the al-Qadisiyah (?sash), the highest medal given to officers who perform extremely well in the defense of Iraq.

Regime Reportedly Preparing for Allied 'Attack'

NC1907150991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The regime of the defeated tyrant has begun to evacuate hospitals and public utilities. It is also strengthening the air defenses around the military and communications installations. The regime fears a new attack by the coalition forces following the expiry on 25 July of the utlimatum the UN Security Council addressed to the defeated tyrant.

Baker, Shamir Confer on Peace, Arab World Stand

Shamir Said 'Pleased' With Talks

TA2207074391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 91 pp A1, 4

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Jerusalem political elements have said that the replies U.S. Secretary of State James Baker supplied last night to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's questions on the Syrian position provided an opening for Israeli acceptance of a superpower invitation to the opening of a peace conference with the participation of a UN observer and an EC representative, a conference that would reconvene from time to time, with the consent of both sides, for updating.

It was learned last night that Shamir was pleased when he came out of the meeting which, at Baker's request, was held in private, without the foreign and defense ministers. [passage omitted]

Before the meeting with Baker, Shamir held a consultation with Ministers Arens and Levi. The foreign minister reported that in his talk with Baker in the limousine on the way from the airport to Jerusalem, the secretary of state said that Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon are willing to participate in the peace process.

According to him, the peace process will be based on an opening ceremony lasting a day to a day and a half, which will then disperse to allow the sides to pursue direct, face-to-face negotiations with Israel. He stressed that the conference will not coerce the sides into anything and that it is merely designed to provide conditions for an encounter where direct negotiations can be launched. The Arab countries have agreed that the Palestinians would be represented in a joint delegation with Jordan and, as a result, King Husayn has already contacted Palestinians in a bid to discuss the delegation's composition. Baker further explained that Syria has asked for nothing in return for its willingness to join the conference, and that its reply to the United States contains no conditions. [passage omitted]

Meeting With Baker Termed 'Good'

TA2207065791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0617 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, prime minister's media adviser, by political correspondent Arye Golan, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem at the end of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Levi, and Defense Minister Arens—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Pazner, how would you characterize the talk which has just ended between Secretary of State Baker and Prime Minister Shamir and Ministers Levi and Arens?

[Pazner] The talk was very good. All the details of the problems we are facing in renewing the peace process were discussed. Contacts with the United States will continue in the coming days, too.

[Golan] Does this mean that Secretary Baker is staying in Israel?

[Pazner] No. Mr. Baker is leaving, but some of his assistants are staying in Israel. We will maintain contact with him, even when he is not in the country. These contacts will continue in the coming days, with the aim of making additional progress. Mr. Baker will soon hold a news conference at the King David Hotel, where he will give details about his talks in Israel.

[Golan] Have solutions been reached on the difficult problems of the Palestinian representation and the UN status at the peace conference?

[Pazner] I suggest you listen to what the secretary of state has to say on the matter. It was agreed that at the news conference, he will report on what has been achieved during the current visit and on the continuation of contacts between Israel and the United States. Both yesterday's and today's contacts were good, and we hope that future contacts will be in the same spirit.

[Golan] If contacts were good, as you say, are we to understand from this that Israel and Prime Minister Shamir are giving a positive answer and that the road to the conference is open?

[Pazner] I told you yesterday that the answer will not be given today. Contacts will be held in the coming days in preparation for a possible answer.

[Golan] Can you tell us where the obstacles now lie?

[Pazner] I suggest that you go listen to what Mr. Baker has to say, because it was agreed between him and the prime minister and defense and foreign ministers that he will hold a news conference in which he will explain what has been achieved during this visit.

[Golan] When will he return to the region?

[Pazner] This is not known yet.

[Golan] Thank you very much. Let me add that the weekly cabinet meeting has just begun, and we will update you on that and on Secretary Baker's news conference.

Shamir Sees 'Revolutionary Change'

TA2207102891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] In an initial report to the cabinet on the talks with James Baker, Mr. Shamir said there has been a revolutionary change in Syria's position. All the Arab countries have given their agreement to direct negotiations and to the United Nations being granted only an observer

status. The conference will only open the direct negotiations and will reconvene only with Israel's consent. The Arab countries have agreed, the prime minister said, that the Palestinian delegation should be composed of Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as part of the Jordanian delegation. Israel, Shamir said, has not yet replied to the questions about the UN observer and the duration of the conference, because it is awaiting the U.S. reply to questions concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the status of the United Nations. Mr. Shamir disclosed that the Americans want to summon the regional conference in October.

Our political correspondent reports that Ministers Sharon, Ne'eman, Magen, and Ze'evi objected to issuing a positive Israeli reply under these terms. They argued that the change in Syria's position is only tactical and not fundamental. Arye Der'i was the only minister who voiced his full support and congratulated Mr. Shamir and the negotiating team over the fact that Israel's fundamental demand concerning direct negotiations has been accepted. Der'i also believes that Israel should immediately give a positive reply, because all that remain are technical problems which are outweighed by the real change in Syria's position.

The prime minister replied that clarifications from Washington should be awaited. According to the ministers, Mr. Shamir was in good spirits and said: Israel's position today could be described as not bad.

'Revolutionary Change' Remark Clarified

TA2207141891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] It is apparent now that at today's cabinet session, Mr. Shamir indeed said that there is a revolutionary change in the Syrian stand. Our correspondent adds, however, that when several ministers questioned this remark, the prime minister added that this is the American opinion.

Replying to claims by several ministers that this is merely a tactical change in the Syrian stand, Mr. Shamir said that even such a change should be welcomed.

Answer on Talks 'When We Are Ready'

TA2107202991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1945 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, prime minister's media adviser, by political correspondent Arye Golan, from the Prime Minister's Office following the Shamir-Baker meeting—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Pazner, what can you tell us about the tete-a-tete meeting Mr. Shamir and Mr. Baker held?

[Pazner] It lasted 90 minutes. It dealt with the peace process. The prime minister was briefed by the secretary of state about his talks in the different Arab countries, since he arrived here after paying a visit to four Arab capitals. The conversation was friendly. The talks will continue tomorrow morning, when at 0700 [0400 GMT] Mr. Baker will meet with the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers to continue the discussions.

[Golan] Has Mr. Shamir seen al-Asad's letter of reply to President Bush?

[Golan] You know that in the diplomatic arena it is unacceptable to show letters of a third country. The prime minister, however, received a detailed briefing concerning the contents of the Syrian missive to President Bush.

[Golan] Was the prime minister impressed, as the Americans were, that al-Asad's letter is positive and that he is ready to hold direct negotiations with Israel?

[Pazner] I would say that most of the conversation of the prime minister with Secretary Baker dealt with the Syrian issue, although other issues were raised as well. Since we are in the midst of talks, which will continue tomorrow, I cannot go into any details or characteristics.

[Golan] Did they also discuss the Palestinian representation, or the UN involvement in the conference?

[Pazner] They did not yet discuss it. The talks will continue tomorrow.

[Golan] Did we move this evening in the direction of the peace conference everybody has been working so hard to attain?

[Pazner] It is too early to say. We must wait for the results of tomorrow morning's conversation. I believe that after tonight, after all the sides will have reflected, they will meet again tomorrow. Then we will see whether we can say that we made progress. For the time being, all I can say about today's conversation is that it was good and was held in a friendly atmosphere.

[Golan] How long will Mr. Baker stay in Israel?

[Pazner] Until tomorrow at about 1100 [0800 GMT].

[Golan] Will he be back on the weekend?

[Pazner] We have no such information yet.

[Golan] When will he be given the final Israeli answer concerning our willingness to attend a peace conference?

[Pazner] We have no deadline on this. It may be given within the next few days. It does not have to be given tomorrow. There is no pressure on us to provide an answer immediately. We will provide one when we are ready.

[Golan] Has al-Asad expressed, among other things, his willingness to meet Prime Minister Shamir at the opening of the peace conference?

[Pazner] I already told you that I will give no characteristics, nor will I speak about the content of the talks.

[Golan] Thank you, Mr. Pazner.

Matter of 'Days, Rather Than Weeks'

TA2207091791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0825 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Avi Pazner, prime minister's media adviser, by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Excerpts] [Reshef] Good day to you, Avi Pazner. Are you optimistic?

[Pazner] Good day to you, too. Let me say we are quite pleased with the talks held here over the last two days. These were good, even very good talks. [passage omitted]

[Reshef] How long do you think it will take Jerusalem to formulate a reply to Baker?

[Pazner] Look, it is difficult to know. We do not have a deadline here. In this respect, Baker was indeed cautious not to set any target dates. Still, I would say we are talking about days, rather than weeks. [passage omitted]

[Reshef] My impression is that the problem on the agenda now is that of the Palestinian delegation. Do you believe the gap on this issue is bridgeable?

[Pazner] Let me say that for a long time now, Israel has been making a serious effort to reach negotiations both with the Arab countries and with the Palestinians. We are facing the problem of the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. There are quite a few unresolved aspects here. We shall work on this problem and see. It is not simple. We will do our best to make progress on this issue.

[Reshef] May I ask you what your gut feeling is?

[Pazner] I would say that the feeling in Jerusalem following the talks with Baker is good. We have a party to talk with, and I am referring to the United States. We have an understanding with the United States. There is goodwill, and even if we do not yet have understanding or agreement on all spheres, the feeling is that we work well together and that it is possible to progress toward a peace process.

[Reshef] You also said that the Israeli answer will be given within days.

[Pazner] I hope so. Please do not take me too literally here. When I say that we will give our answer, I mean that we are not speaking of months.

[Reshef] Thank you, Avi Pazner.

[Pazner] Thank you.

Palestinians Debate Issues Before, After Talks

Al-Husayni Authorized by PLO Decision

TA2107105691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The consultations in East Jerusalem in anticipation of the meeting with James Baker have ended. Faysal al-Husayni said that the meeting will be held according to the PLO's decision and that he may ask for another meeting with Baker following the latter's session with Shamir. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

The consultations of the Palestinian figures in East Jerusalem ended this morning. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation that will confer with Baker this evening, said a few minutes ago: We are going to the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state in accordance with the PLO's decision. There is no change in the positions that we will present to Baker, and we will listen particularly to what he has to say about his latest moves.

As for this morning's report about the call of members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Janin not to talk to Baker and to stop making free concessions to the Americans, al-Husayni said: I did not hear about it. However, the organizations that object to the meetings acquire more strength each time I cannot answer the question: What have you done for us, Faysal, how have you promoted our cause? [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 21 July adds that DFLP activists sprayed graffiti in Tulkarm criticizing the meeting between Baker and a Palestinian delegation, calling it "a stab in the back of the intifadah." Graffiti painted by the Islamic resistance movement Hamas criticized the "Jordanian Government and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri's compromising policy."]

Referring to the latest terror attacks, al-Husayni said: Due to their frustration over the stalemate in the political process and their lack of trust in the current moves, the supporters of the rejectionist organizations are gaining strength in the territories and carrying out actions that they believe will bring faster results. Al-Husayni added that he may ask for another meeting with Baker this evening, after the latter's session with Prime Minister Shamir.

Says No Disagreements With Baker

TA2207051591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni said this morning that there were no disagreements with Secretary of State Baker during the meeting at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. In the meeting, Baker briefed us on his talks in Damascus, Cairo, Riyadh, and Amman, said Faysal al-Husayni. We did not perceive his remarks as implying

that Syrian President al-Asad has backed down on the issue of Palestinian participation at the regional peace conference.

He added: As for Palestinian representation at the conference, we stressed again that we are committed to the PLO's resolution and that we demand that the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference include delegates from East Jerusalem.

It will be noted that reports we have received on the meeting between Baker and the Palestinians indicate that the meeting focused mainly on a discussion of the Palestinian representation. Baker attempted to stay within the framework of his agreements with Israel, while trying to convince the Palestinians to find a way to bypass the Palestinian representation problem.

Faysal al-Husayni further said this morning that the talk with Baker was held in a good atmosphere and that he and his colleagues understood from Baker's remarks that Israel has not budged from its stand on the issue of the Palestinian representation and the inclusion of the United Nations in the conference.

After Baker leaves, members of the Palestinian delegation will hold a news conference, where they will divulge more details about their talk with the U.S. secretary of state.

Groups Denounce 'U.S. Conspiracy'

TA2207124891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The first denunciations of the talks held last night by Palestinian activists with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker came today in East Jerusalem. In a news conference summoned by supporters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and women's organization in the territories, speakers harshly criticized the U.S. attempt—as they termed it—to deprive the PLO of the role of conducting the negotiations and to assign it to a delegation of local representatives. Our correspondent Moti Amir has just phoned in with a report about the news conference currently under way in East Jerusalem:

The news conference was called by Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, Dr. Muhammad Jadallah, 'Abd-al-Latif (Ghati), and Samiha Khalil. The four harshly criticized Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues for their meeting with Baker last night. They warned against the U.S. conspiracy—as they describe Baker's shuttle mission—to deprive the PLO of the role of negotiating on the future of the Palestinians and to hand that role over to a delegation of local residents. Due to the talks with Baker last night, so they said, we are now at a critical turning point where our political future might be determined by a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation—a turning point where the Americans are holding talks with local representatives that will lead to the implementation of autonomy according to Israel's plans. We categorically oppose it, the four speakers stressed; we favor a peace that includes recognition of our legitimate rights and that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The organizers of the news conference stressed that they represent the majority of the population of the territories. According to them, opposition to the talks with Baker was voiced yesterday and today by Fatah followers in Nabulus and Bethlehem. They noted that signatures are now being collected among Fatah followers in the territories for a manifesto attacking Baker's plans.

[At 1200 GMT, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew adds that the news conference "broke up in a vociferous scuffle." The report notes that "some of the women burst out screaming, saying that they had been brought to the place under false pretenses and that they had no idea that the organizers of the news conference intended to lash out at the PLO."]

Palestinian Unity Party Sends Manifesto

TA1907112791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The newly established party in the territories, the National Palestinian Unity Party, has handed the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem a political manifesto and asked that it be relayed to Secretary of State James Baker.

The party wants its representatives to join the talks with Palestinians which Baker is scheduled to hold on Sunday and to meet with him separately.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the party's manifesto states that all regional peace talks and every peace conference must conclude with Israeli withdrawal from the territories. The party insists on the Palestinian right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state, and urges Baker to take action to stop land expropriation and the establishment of new settlements in the territories.

More on New Party, Palestinian Stand

TA2007093891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Report by correspondent in the territories Moti Amir—recorded]

[Text] In the territories, everybody is waiting for Jerusalem's reply to the Syrian agreement to convene a regional peace conference. Most Palestinian notables are pinning their hopes on Baker's current visit to the Middle East.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj believes that this is a very important visit. He stresses that, following Syria's postive reply, he hopes Israel will not create additional obstacles.

[Frayj, in English] I think that Baker's visit to Jerusalem Sunday is very crucial and very important. We should all wish him success. With the positive Syrian answer, I believe and I hope that Israel will not create any further obstacles. If there is to be peace, it has to be based on territories for peace. Otherwise, if Israel refuses to withdraw one inch from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, how can there be peace?

[Amir translates and continues] Frayj will not attend the meeting with Baker tomorrow. He will be leaving for a tour of the United States.

The Palestinian delegation that will confer with Baker tomorrow will have the same composition as before. It will be headed by Faysal al-Husayni and will include Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, who met Baker in Washington, and Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha. Last week, al- Husayni did not exclude the possibility that the delegation would include a fourth member representing the Communist Party.

The new party in the territories, the National Palestinian Unity Party headed by (Kamal Tabanji), yesterday announced that its representatives would also like to meet Baker. According to Yusuf al-Kahtib, a member of the party's leadership, some people in the territories regard themselves the sole representatives of the Palestinian people. This is not democratic, he says.

Representatives of the new party yesterday handed the U.S. Consulate on Agron Street in Jerusalem a six-chapter political manifesto outlining the party's political credo on the peace process in the Middle East. The manifesto states that the party believes that any peace talks or peace conference held in the region must lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. The party insists that the right of return, the right to self- determination, and the right to establish a Palestinian state in the region be observed. It calls on Baker to put an end to land expropriation and the establishment of settlements in the territories. The manifesto says that immigration to Israel must be made conditional on Israel's willingness to join the peace process. The party calls for international supervision and protection of the negotiations process and Israel's withdrawal from the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza under conditions to be determined in the negotiations.

It is worth noting that this is a new party, and that its influence and the extent of its support in the territories remains unclear.

Consultations of Palestinian notables will continue today as well in East Jerusalem, and it is possible that the delegation will arrive at the Baker meeting with a new political manifesto. This manifesto, perhaps following the Syrian example, could include changes in the Palestinian stands. One thing is clear, however: The Palestinian delegation's stands may well be more flexible, but it will almost certainly insist that representatives from East Jerusalem take part in any peace conference in our region.

Communist Party To Boycott Talks

TA2007175891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] In East Jerusalem, the Palestinians are continuing their consultations prior to Secretary of State James Baker's visit tomorrow. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Communist Party in the territories has rescinded its demand to send a representative to the talks with Baker because in its view the U.S. position has not been changed and the United States continues to avoid the demand to implement UN resolutions.

The Palestinian delegation will include Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, who said he would not come to the Baker meeting with new ideas because any change in the Palestinian positions must come from the PLO.

Politicans View Situation Before Baker Talks

Trust in U.S. 'Seriously Eroded'

TA2107090291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will explain today to Secretary of State James Baker that Israel expects an explicit declaration by President al-Asad regarding his desire for direct negotiations with Israel, even if the content of his message to President Bush is positive, as the Americans have portrayed it.

Political sources in Jerusalem reported last night that according to information in Israel, al-Asad's message makes no mention of "direct negotiations" and that without a clear statement to that effect by al-Asad, Israel will not be prepared even to consider additional concessions in its positions. "One message, even if it is properly phrased, cannot wipe out 43 years of extreme hostility," sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night. [passage omitted]

Baker is drawing up a plan calling for the Arab countries to freeze the boycott of Israel in exchange for a halt in Israeli settlement activity. Two days ago Egypt expressed support for this idea, while Saudi Arabia is expected to demonstrate a stiffer position on this point.

In reaction to this, the prime minister's bureau reported last night that Israel rejects these conditions. "The 43-year-long Arab boycott should end irrespective of the settlements," said Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the bureau.

He added that the settlements will be discussed as part of the political negotiations and have nothing to do with the boycott. They are likewise totally unrelated to improving ties with Egypt. "We have already proved our desire for peace," said Ahime'ir, "so it is high time they stop the

attempts to extort from us each time additional concessions in exchange for steps that should have been adopted anyhow."

The political sources added that it seems that al-Asad did not at all accept the U.S. positions as presented to Israel and that he believes either a UN representative or a representative of one of the superpowers should participate in the bilateral negotiations that are expected to begin after the international opening. [passage omitted]

Upon his return from London two days ago, Foreign Minister David Levi hinted that Israel might, under certain conditions, consider the inclusion of a passive UN representative in the opening session of the negotiations. He told Qol Yisra'el that Israel will examine with Baker ways to make sure that representative will not interfere in the negotiations and will be unable to raise the issues broached in the negotiations for discussion in UN institutions.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau who were asked to comment on Levi's remarks said that the prime minister is firm in his opposition to the inclusion of the United Nations in the process or the possibility of the reconvening of the peace conference. They added, nonetheless, that "there are no differences of opinion between the foreign minister and the prime minister. There might be differences of style, but no differences of opinion."

The sources explained that Shamir will demand today from Baker a full report on the content of President al-Asad's message and the U.S. pledges given to Syria within the framework of the two countries' negotiations on the phrasing of the message. At the same time, it should be noted that according to partial information that has arrived in Jerusalem over the weekend, mainly from European sources, it seems that in his message al-Asad indeed agreed to adopt the U.S. compromise proposals on procedural matters concerning the participation of a UN representative and the continuing nature of the conference.

The reports also indicate that al-Asad bases his consent on the U.S. clarification that the negotiations will be based on Resolution 242, including its "territory for peace" component. Al-Asad has likewise "proposed" that the bilateral negotiations be monitored by one of the two superpowers. Jerusalem will today want to find out whether he has gone back on this or not. Baker will also be asked today about Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's declaration that Palestinian representatives from outside the territories should be included in the Palestinian delegation, in view of the fact that this declaration conflicts with agreements reached with Baker earlier.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Israel will be prepared to permit Lebanese participation in the peace process despite its assessment that the Lebanese Government is a Syrian "satellite." Dani Nave, the defense minister's adviser, said that "if the Lebanese Government is prepared to enter into direct negotiations with Israel without preconditions, we will welcome this." [passage omitted]

There is a highly uneasy feeling in the prime minister's bureau about Baker's brief visit, as the United States is seen as trying to apply pressure to Israel and, contrary to its promises, is keeping Israel in the dark regarding its actions. A senior political source reported last night that Israel's readiness to walk the extra mile ultimately depends not on President al-Asad's formulations but on the extent of Israel's trust in the United States. "In the past few weeks, that trust has been seriously eroded," the source added.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 21 July, in a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Washington correspondent Rami Tal on page 2, adds that "the prime minister's bureau is angry with Bush and Baker for their latest declarations. 'Israel does not need to be prodded in anything related to peace. It has already demonstrated its interest in it,' sources in the bureau said."]

Levi: Talks Have 'Good Chances'

TA2107184991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik from the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] Secretary of State James Baker arrived here, and you can see him on the screen right now. He will meet Prime Minister Shamir alone in a few minutes.

A short while ago, Foreign Minister David Levi briefed Defense Minister Arens and Prime Minister Shamir, saying that there are good chances for the negotiations to advance because the Syrians are willing to hold direct negotiations with no preconditions. In response to the foreign minister's question, presented on the way from the airport to Jerusalem, Baker made it clear that all the (?intentions) and agreements between Israel and the United States stand firm, that they were presented in full to President al-Asad, and that he has no preconditions for peace negotiations with Israel.

Answering another question by the foreign minister, who mentioned to Baker the various reports that Syria does not intend to hold direct negotiations and has several conditions, Secretary of State Baker explicitly said that Syria is speaking about direct negotiations with Israel and that soon after a brief regional opening ceremony is held, negotiations between Israel and all the Arab countries will open. The negotiations will be direct; the sides will sit face to face and talk peace to each other.

As was said before, Arens and Shamir were briefed by the foreign minister just a few minutes ago.

Allow me to add that during the Bush-Gorbachev summit at the end of this month, the Americans hope to announce that a peace conference will be held soon.

Also, additional details that will be given here tonight include the full text of the Syrian letter. According to information that reached Israel over the last few hours, Mr. Baker will relay the full text of the Syrian missive—the content of which has so far been secret and a cause of concern for the Israeli leadership—to his interlocutors. Mr. Baker will relay all the details and everything will be placed on the table.

The feeling here tonight is conciliatory and optimistic. This meeting is scheduled to be brief. According to information in our hands, Mr. Baker does not feel well, and he will therefore retire earlier than usual. Tomorrow morning he will apparently meet Shamir, Arens, and Levi, and he will perhaps hear from them answers to questions he will present Shamir this evening, after fully briefing him about the various stands, about what the Arabs really think, and on the positions of the Arab countries concerning the opening of direct negotiations for peace with Israel.

Levi on 'Understandings' With U.S.

TA2007084491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan on 19 July; place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Golan] Sir, is it not odd that despite all our trust in and understandings with the United States—that each party will know about agreements with the other side and that there will be no secret deals—the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers of the State of Israel do not know what al-Asad wrote to Bush?

[Levi] We must be patient. What is all this panic? The United States is saying that it will clarify—in Syria—several points, which are not preconditions. I believe this is natural. This is also what Israel is demanding. As for the content and so forth, we will meet with Mr. Baker, we will examine the issues, and we will examine how it all coincides with our understandings with the United States. These understandings are very important; they are ironclad political assets that Israel did not have before. I hope that we still have them. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Are you certain that, on the issue of Palestinian representation, the United States agrees with us and not the Arab side?

[Levi] I am certain of only one thing, in principle: The understandings we have reached with the United States provide the answers to these issues. We have not wasted our time, and we have not been discussing the weather. All of these issues have been on our agenda. We have formed understandings, and we should take action, demand, and make certain that those understandings are firm, that the United States will keep them, and that it has not deviated from them.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, you are going to Cairo at the end of this month. Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen called on you not to visit there as long as Egypt is boycotting Prime Minister Shamir.

[Levi] The fact that Egypt is boycotting the prime minister is serious, unacceptable, and I have reacted to it. I raised it with the Egyptian ambassador during an official meeting. It is inconceivable that a country with which we live in peace should reject a meeting with the Israeli prime minister. This is an insult to our national pride. At the same time, I will travel to Cairo and will say these things very clearly there as well. I would not go as far as to say that I would accept the advice that we should be paralyzed instead of continuously making an effort to strengthen our relations and ties with Egypt. I was invited, and I should not refuse to go to Cairo just because of the views of Ge'ula Kohen. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Levi on Change in Syrians

TA2207115491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in today's cabinet session that the time has not yet come to give an answer to the question of the regional conference, seeing that the U.S. position regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation is not yet clear. Shamir said that the change in Syria's position should be welcomed, and Foreign Minister David Levi seconded him:

[Begin Levi recording] I cannot say it is a dramatic change, but those who ignore it perhaps simply do not want to see the change. Nevertheless, today's Syria is a Syria that has sobered up, a Syria that has gradually abandoned its previous negative positions and that—so we hope—is now treading the path of peace or, in any event, today agrees to direct negotiations with Israel, without any preconditions and without any assurances behind our back. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 22 July adds: "Prime Minister Shamir asked Secretary Baker that the regional conference be convened in Washington at the ministerial level. The Americans are prepared to give guarantees to Israel that the UN Security Council will not be summoned to discuss the negotiations as long as the talks are under way, even if there is a crisis."]

Levi on Silent UN Presence

TA1907110191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan on 19 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, if and when you learn from Baker on Sunday that Syria has indeed given

a positive reply showing flexibility, will Israel also be ready to be more flexible on the issue of allowing a UN observer at the conference?

[Levi] I am not negotiating with you. We are familiar with UN stands on these issues and with the anti-Israeli resolutions it has endorsed over the years. Its equation of Zionism with racism is a shame and a stain on that organization's record. In view of all this, we are afraid that even a silent UN representative is liable to cause the other side, namely the Arabs, to entertain certain hopes and to believe that the debates can be moved to another arena, which will delay the process. This is the reason Israel has always opposed such a representative.

We will listen to what is said about this representative's role and about the extent to which the United States can prevent the possibility of his presence—albeit silent—from causing the other side to create obstructions and to stop progress in the hope that the United Nations will take some action to halt peace.

If, however, it turns out that the Syrian stand has changed; that it has at last embarked on the path of peace; that it has abandoned its rejectionist stand; that it poses no conditions; that it accepts the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions; that nothing is said in contravention of earlier agreements with us; and that the understandings between us and the United States are firm, and the Unites States confirms that this is so—we will gladly welcome it.

Objects to UN-Monitored Talks

LD2107085691 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] As U.S. Secretary of State James Baker ends a tour of Mideast capitals designed to promote the idea of a peace conference, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak proposed suspending the Arab economic boycott of Israel in exchange for an end to the settlement policy in the occupied territories. Saudi Arabia accepted the Egyptian initiative.

James Baker is expected in Israel today to try to get his peace plan accepted, but the Israeli Government remains firm, as expressed by Foreign Minister David Levi, interviewed by Pierre Veil:

[Begin recording] [Levi] We are against an international conference. A regional conference aimed at bringing Israel and the Arab countries to direct negotiations is its goal. It is not for it to intervene or to judge or to vote, which is why we are waiting to find out from these talks with Mr. Baker whether there is really a chance. If there is, we will be the first to be satisfied.

[Veil] Do you maintain your position on the presence of a UN representative at the negotiating table even if he is silent and does not participate in debate?

[Levi] We have always had this worry that if there was a UN representative there would always be a sensation among the Arabs that it would be possible to undertake at the same time parallel talks at UN level. This would be a big obstacle. For this reason, we will not accept the presence of a UN delegate. [end recording]

Arens: Settlement, Boycott Not Linked

TA2107134391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1205 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Pinhas 'Idan on the "On the Eve of Recruitment" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Idan] Mr. Defense Minister, we heard today that Saudi Arabia is willing to call off the Arab boycott against Israel. I do not know how true this is, but, referring to the economic issue in general, could this help the State of Israel out of its economic problems?

[Arens] I heard the announcement, which I think is more of a maneuver than an honest offer, because an economic boycott is unacceptable and immoral. It does not have the support of the international community. Nevertheless, the Arab world has been conducting an economic boycott against Israel for the past 43 years. Now, after 43 years, the Saudis, who are apparently not short of money, suddenly remembered it. They are telling us that if we stop Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, they will be willing to stop the boycott. There is no link between the right of Jewish people to settle and reside in Judaea and Samaria and the illegality of using means such as the Arab world's boycott against Israel.

['Idan] Are these tricks played in preparation for Baker's visit here?

[Arens] I assume this is not unconnected with Baker's arrival here.

['Idan] I believe we will hear more declarations of this sort in the coming days.

[Arens] Yes. We have been hearing Arab declarations quite often. We are always waiting for positive declarations—not tricks, but tangible things. [passage omitted]

Sharon on Saudi Boycott Proposal

TA2107085291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Reacting to Saudi King Fahd's remarks about calling off the Arab boycott, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said we do not know what is behind the statement about the possible abolition of the Arab boycott on foreign companies but not on Israeli goods.

Referring to the demand that Israel place a moratorium on settlement, Sharon said Jews have the right to settle anywhere in Eretz Yisra'el. Sharon's remarks during a tour of Qiryat Gat were reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

Says Settlements To Continue

TA2107110091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon said that Israel will continue to settle in the territories for hundreds of years. He said that settlement in the territories is not linked to regional developments, visits to the region, or immediate concrete issues. Minister Sharon stressed that the Jewish people have a right to Eretz Yisra'el on both the west and east banks of the Jordan River, and that this right is absolute. He added, however, that because a de facto Palestinian state has already been established east of the river, we are now talking about what might happen on the West Bank. That is what we are now dealing with, Sharon said.

On the proposal to abrogate the Arab economic boycott, Minister Sharon said that there is no connection between rescinding a boycott on French, U.S., and Japanese firms, which violates all international laws, and the right of Jews to their own country. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Sharon addressed an Israel Bonds Young Leadership Mission to the south.

Netanyahu on al-Asad-Shamir Meeting

TA2107115491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Roni Daniyel and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Golan] Is Hafiz al-Asad's announcement that he is willing to meet Prime Minister Shamir not slightly reminiscent of al-Sadat's willingness to come to Jerusalem? Although he says he would confer with Shamir in the opening regional conference, this is still something.

[Netanyahu] Arye, you say there is such an announcement or report. This is an assumption or a piece of speculation, as Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, described it. Indeed, we have no information confirming the veracity of this report. Nevertheless, assuming that President al-Asad is prepared to confer with the prime minister, we definitely welcome such a development. For such a development to have full weight, it is important that the negotiations between the heads of state—or any other level—of Israel and Syria should be held by us, not by some international phalanx on one side and Israel on the other. This is not a formula for negotiations but for an international conference aimed at exerting all sorts of pressure on Israel and forcing it to capitulate.

[Golan] The UN observer is part of this phalanx, as you call it. If the United States were to promise, authoritatively and in writing, that the UN observer would be passive, silent, mute, neutralized, and void of any powers—if it is completely clear to Israel that the observer would have such an inferior status—would you suggest that we reconsider our objection to granting any status to the United Nations in the conference?

[Netanyahu] If Syria really and truly wants to break the state of war with us and enter direct negotiations, we do not expect it to accept all our positions. If it indeed intends to make the most important step—direct negotiations—this means that it would be meeting us on its own. It has no reason for fear in such a case, just as we are not afraid of such negotiations. That is why I see no reason for the presence of anybody else.

Moreover, it seems to me that the question refers to the U.S. role. We definitely welcome all the political efforts made by the United States to launch a process of direct negotiations, but we expect it to abide by its commitment to be an impartial broker. In other words, if the Syrians think the United States supports their positions about the return of the Golan Heights, and so forth, it tarnishes the U.S. status as an honest broker [last two words in English] and, what is more, it radicalizes the Syrian position. It does not help find a solution but, I would say, precludes one. Of course, we have no U.S. confirmation that this is its position. It seems to me that what counts is direct negotiations between us and Syria, not with other elements, including the United States, which at best is supposed to be a mediating factor but not our partner for negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Do you foresee a tough meeting with the secretary of state at the Prime Minister's Office this evening?

[Netanyahu] No, I do not foresee a tough meeting, but an informative one. We hope to learn from the United States what they heard from Syria, what is written in al-Asad's letter, and the clarifications. Of course, we expect the United States to abide by its commitment of 1989, as we hope it will, when we came out with our peace initiative so that no side is left in the dark about the commitments, accords, understandings reached between the other side and the United States. The Syrians definitely know about all the accords and understandings we attained with the United States. I would like to hope that this evening the United States will let us know what understandings it reached with Syria. [passage omitted]

Further Comment on Proposed Meeting

TA2107102291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Europe say that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is prepared to meet the highest Israeli political level, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, in his letter to President Bush, al-Asad states that he would be willing to go meet Shamir at the opening of the international conference. According to the European sources, this is the first time that the Syrian president has expressed his willingness to confer face to face with an

Israeli leader and, in their opinion, this is a positive change in al-Asad's approach to the peace process.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says this report contradicts previous reports, including statements by the Syrian president and foreign minister, who continue to talk about an international conference with the active participation of the superpowers throughout the negotiations.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, described the report as speculative. He said that only tonight, when Baker confers with Shamir, Levi, and Arens, will we know what al-Asad's letter contains.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said that Hafiz al-Asad is invited to come to free, direct negotiations and it is unclear why he needs to be accompanied by the United Nations and the superpowers.

Baker Said Like 'Bull in a China Shop'

TA2207093291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction will ask the prime minister for a report on the latest political moves. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that during today's faction meeting, Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan demanded that the faction protest Secretary Baker's meetings with Palestinian representatives in Jerusalem. According to Eytan, Baker is behaving in Jerusalem like a bull in a china shop and may again smash the Israeli Government to smithereens. Eytan claims that the meetings with the Palestinian representatives are tantamount to indirect negotiations between the United States and the PLO, and the Israeli Government must oppose this.

In reaction, other Likud faction members said that the release of an official announcement may be interpreted as leveling criticism at the government, and therefore decided to ask the prime minister for a briefing.

Our correspondent notes that this morning, the Likud faction executive mainly discussed the draft resolution on the direct election of the prime minister, and it was agreed that the issue will be passed to the Likud Central Committee for a decision.

Officials Reject Boycott-Settlement Link

TA2107060691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0315 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem stated last night that Israel rejects Saudi Arabia's proposal to call off the economic boycott on Israel in exchange for a freeze on settlement. According to these sources, Israel rejects the attempt to create a link between these two issues. Just as it rejected it when this proposal was issued by the economic summit in London, so it rejects it when it comes from Jeddah. The officials pointed out that the Arab boycott is illegal and is in no way related to the question of settlement, which would be raised in the course of the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

U.S. Said Committed to Israel's Golan Stand

TA2007112991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Labor Party Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Bar-Zohar has said that at one time, then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made a commitment on behalf of President Ford to adopt Israel's stand on the Golan Heights. According to him, in the Foreign Ministry's archives there is a document on the issue from President Ford, dated 1 September 1975, which was sent to then Foreign Minister Yig'al Alon in the framework of the disengagement agreements between Israel and Syria.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that MK Bar-Zohar has addressed Foreign Minister David Levi on the issue, asking whether the foreign minister is aware of the letter and suggesting that, when he arrives tomorrow afternoon, Mr. Baker be made aware of the 16-year-old U.S. commitment, which is of significant importance today.

U.S. Secretary Baker's Meetings in Amman Noted

Met by al-Nusur at Airport

JN2107112591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his wife arrived in Amman at noon today on a visit to Jordan which is part of his fifth tour of the states in the region. Mr. Baker will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on the developments in the region and the current efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

Mr. Baker's current visit is a continuation of the efforts made by the United States and the world community to hold a peace conference and aims at holding further consultations with Jordanian officials to take advantage of the existing opportunity to achieve peace in the region following the positive developments that have occurred in this regard.

Mr. Baker was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Abdallah al-Nusur, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, the heads of the Foreign Ministry's political and protocol departments, the governor of Amman, the chief of Amman Police, the U.S. ambassador in Amman, and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

Mr. Baker is accompanied by John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff; and State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

Meets With King Husayn

JN2107154391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation at Raghdadn Palace this afternoon. The official talks dealt with the developments in the region and efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Crown Prince Hasan; His Highness 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn; Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri; Royal Court Chief Zayd Bin-Shakir; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the king's political adviser; and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur.

On the U.S. side, the talks were attended by John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs; Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff; Margaret Tutwiler, spokeswoman for the State Department; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. The talks were interrupted by a working luncheon held by His Majesty King Husayn in honor of Mr. Baker, which was attended by members of the two delegations.

Husayn, Baker News Conference

JN2107191191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Joint news conference by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with unidentified reporters in Amman on 21 July—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and friends. I am very, very happy indeed to have the opportunity to speak to you again, to welcome you, particularly on this occasion, the third chance we have had to welcome Secretary Baker, a dear friend on a rather short visit to Jordan, with Mrs. Baker this time as well, and his able colleagues. As usual, we have had a very frank and open discussion, and I feel extremely satisfied and happy with the results, and I leave it to you sir to start this evening.

[Baker] Thank you, Your Majesty, very much for receiving us and receiving our delegation, and I would agree with your characterization of our talks. I think they were very good talks and very productive talks, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with you very closely as we move forward to try and craft the process for peace in this region. As you know, I will be meeting this evening with Palestinians from the territories, as well as with representatives of the Israeli Government, to discuss with them the same matters that you and I have had an opportunity to discuss with you today. Thank you for receiving us on short notice, and perhaps we should pause to respond to questions.

[Reporter] Would you tell us why your talks were good and productive?

[Husayn] They were good and productive, because they are dealing with a very serious, a very chronic problem that is of mutual concern to the United States, and to ourselves, and to all in this region. They were good and productive because they were frank and open as they should be among friends. We have seen much change in the recent past, and I believe with every visit that the secretary has made to this region—this part of the world. We have seen the will of the world—the will of people of goodwill—forced forward motion hopefully towards the fulfillment of a dream, the realization of a dream and hopes that have been within us for years and years of a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli, the Arab-Israeli problem. So, right now I believe the visit has come at a time when we have seen progress both here in the region and in the world. I recall suggesting that it was possible and available, and there is a desire to see us move ahead. Well, we have always been ready; we have always been committed to peace, and I believe now with the developments regarding the attitudes of many Arab states, and by the way, do not exclude us, but put us among the first. I hope that we will see progress towards the establishment of peace.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] President Bush wrote you asking Jordan also to take part in the peace conference

that the United States and the Soviet Union intend to convene, can you tell us today whether Jordan is prepared to attend?

[Husayn] I said from the outset, but probably people did not hear me very clearly, that when the process is there, when the conference is there, Jordan will be among the first to attend it, and I repeat that. We are ready to attend, okay? We are ready to attend a peace conference, and we are very happy indeed that it is going to be a comprehensive one. And there is another dimension, of course, which I am sure I can cover now, and save you asking about it. We are in touch with the Palestinians, our brethren, to look at the possibility of—as was suggested—the umbrella of the joint delegation, a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and I hope that we will see some progress along that track, too.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you did not say that you would attend if Syria did, and you did not say that you would attend if Syria did not. What was it that changed between the last time we saw you and now, to have you make the affirmative statement you just made, even if it was only an answer to a question and was not an announcement?

[Husayn] Last time, and I do not want to analyze anything beyond saying that the problem is bigger than Jordan, bigger than Palestine, bigger than Israel, bigger than Syria. The problem is a big problem, it is a regional problem. It is a world problem. And we are seeking a comprehensive solution. I believe that it is the solution of the United States, in terms of the President, the administration, and the world. We want a solution to this problem. We want to continue towards resolving it.

[Reporter] What has changed since the last time we saw you to make this statement today, which you were unwilling to make last time?

[Husayn] More contacts and more efforts. Not everything can be said to our friends publicly, otherwise we will not get anywhere. So, there is a lot of work being done, and we are making progress.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you believe that you can say today that you will support Husni Mubarak's suggestion that in return for suspending the Arab boycott, Israel suspend the building of settlements in the occupied territories?

[Husayn] If the dynamics of the situation can be worked out by all means.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] must Palestinians from outside the territories also be part of this delegation?

[Husayn] I think you will find there are Palestinians outside the territories, in the government in Jordan, and in Jordan itself. What we are talking about is a solution, and obviously, I think, what the efforts have concentrated on so far is how to try to deal with the plight of people in the occupied territories, and I hope somehow that when we speak of a comprehensive solution it will eventually cover all aspects of this problem, both Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli, and that we will have peace in this region as a whole.

[Reporter] How close are we to a conference?

[Husayn] Closer than we have ever been.

[Reporter] Mr. Baker, provided that Israel will accept fully your initiative, what would be the mechanism of convening the peace conference? And if it continues to reject your proposals, how serious would the United States be to materializing its declared intention to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute?

[Baker] Well, the last question I really have difficulty answering, because it is totally hypothetical. I am going to Israel tonight to visit with its leadership, the Government of Israel, and see exactly what their position is with respect to a number of these issues. It is my hope... [changes thought] Your first question; you asked how would we go about this. It would be our hope, of course, that we could see the convening of this conference within a reasonable time period. It would be preferable, of course, if we could see that upon the acceptance of all of the important parties. But within recent days we have seen a number of countries come forward and basically say that they are prepared to attend a conference on the basis of the American proposals. That is very heartening to us. And we hope that that will generate even further movement. And let me take this occasion to thank his majesty for his statement just now, for both statements, one that he will by all means attend the conference, that Jordan will be in attendance at the conference on the basis which we have suggested and that he would support the initiative suggested by President Mubarak.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Baker] Well, I thank you for asking this question because it gives me the opportunity to once again make clear that the purpose of this conference would be to launch direct, bilateral negotiations between Israel and Palestinians on one hand, and Israel and her Arab neighbors on the other. So the willingness of countries to attend the conference, clearly I think, connotes a willingness to attend on the basis that been outlined in the American proposal.

[Reporter] Are you prepared for direct, bilateral negotiations with Israel?

[Husayn] No, we will mime when we attend the conference. [as heard]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Husayn] No, I am saying... [changes thought] What do you attend a conference to do? Do you attend a conference to mime, to make faces at each other, or to discuss and try to resolve the problem? I have been calling for this for years and years. I assure you that this is really the intention and it is very, very clear.

Baker Departs After 4-Hour Visit

JN2107192191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation left Amman for Israel this afternoon at the conclusion of an approximately four-hour visit to Jordan as part of his current tour of the Middle East—the fifth since March. The tour falls within efforts by the United States and world community to find peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis. Mr. Baker was seen off at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, senior ministry officials, Amman's governor, Amman's police chief, and the U.S ambassador in Amman.

Al-Nusur Deems Talks 'Positive,' 'Constructive'

JN2207091491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 91, p 19

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur described His Majesty King Husayn's talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as "positive and constructive." He told AL-DUSTUR yesterday that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them, in addition to current developments in the region, especially the U.S. peace efforts to establish a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the region.

The minister said: The talks were comprehensive. Mr. Baker briefed us on his talks in the sisterly countries he visited, particularly the positive Syrian reply to the U.S. President's letter on the Middle East crisis.

The minister added: We consider the Israeli settlement activity a stumbling block before the resolution of the crisis. This activity should be stopped so as to help promote the peace process.

On Jordan's stance toward Baker's ideas, he said: There is nothing new in our position, which is based on the need to resolve the Middle East crisis, according to Resolutions 242 and 338, and convene an international peace conference. Our positions are firm and clear.

Baker left Amman for Tel Aviv at the end of his talks with top Jordanian officials. He was seen off by Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur and a number of Jordanian officials.

House Condemns Baker Tour, 'Threats' to Iraq

JN2107193791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The House of Representatives held a meeting this evening under its speaker, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, and with Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali al-Suhaymat and a number of ministers in attendance. The deputies discussed the situation in the region, including the current political efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis.

More details from our correspondent for parliamentary affairs Muhammad al-Tarawinah:

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] In its session this evening, the House of Representatives decided to issue a statement denouncing the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region and calling for an end to the economic blockade of Iraq and to threats to attack that country. The statement will also call for an end to the harassment of al-'Aqabah bound ships, which constitutes a blockade on Jordan. The statement will also call for the Arab nation's unity and stress that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The deputies authorized the speaker to issue the statement after lengthy discussions in which a number of deputies took part. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Policy Said 'Biased'

JN2107203591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The House of Representatives has issued a statement on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region. The statement condemns the U.S. policy, which is biased in favor of Israel. It rejects any conference that perpetuates the Israeli occupation of Palestine, practices double standards in dealing with the UN resolutions, and excludes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The statement rejects attempts to divide the Arab-Israeli conflict, help the United States and its Israeli ally single out the Arab Palestinian people, crush the intifadah, and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The statement rejects cancellation of the Arab boycott on Israel in return for an imaginary, unreal condition; namely, suspension of building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The statement also rejects attempts at normalization with Israel in all aspects. The statement denounces foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the continuation of the unjust economic blockade, which has gone beyond all human measures.

House Statement Detailed

JN2207080091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 91 pp 26, 20

[Text] Amman—In a statement issued last night, the House of Representatives stressed its rejection of the proposed peace conference and the attempt to divide the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also announced its rejection of the cancellation of Arab boycott on Israel and the attempts at normalization with the Zionist entity.

The House also denounced foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the unjust economic blockade against Iraq. It condemned the U.S. Administration's

attempts to impose capitulation and to drag the region into further U.S. hegemony. Following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate.

Statement issued by the Jordanian House of Representatives on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit:

The envoy of U.S. imperialism, Baker, is visiting our country on a mission to reactivate a political settlement. This is the third visit in this regard to impose capitulation on the Arab nation, in the forefront of which is Jordan, the land of mobilization and steadfastness, as a prelude to liquidate the Palestine question in favor of Israel's expansionism and U.S. hegemony. While we always denounce the U.S. policy that is biased in all its stands toward its strategic ally, Israel, we reaffirm the following constants:

1. We reject the peace conference that perpetuates the Israeli occupation of Palestine and brings an end to its strange entity's enmity with the surrounding Arab states, and we reject any regional or international conference that practices double standards in dealing with the UN resolution and excludes the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

2. We reject the attempt to divide the Arab-Israeli conflict to pave the way for dragging each Arab party separately to impose peace on it in accordance with Israeli-U.S. joint ambitions.

3. We reject the attempts by the U.S. policy and its ally, Israel, to single out the Palestinian Arab people, crush their intifadah, liquidate the Palestine question, and close its file once and for all in favor of the usurper Zionist enemy.

4. We reject the attempts to cancel the Arab boycott on Israel in return for an imaginary, unreal condition; namely, suspension of building settlements in the Palestinian Arab territories, something which will lead the nation into a state of loss, normalization, humiliation, and to the opening of Arab markets for Israeli goods, which will lead to a new serious pattern of devastating economic colonization, which some sides are trying to bring to our countries.

5. We reject the attempts at normalization with Israel in various fields, particularly the cultural normalization with the rancorous enemy and the hateful Zionist entity.

6. We condemn foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the attempts to assassinate its people, civilization, and unity.

7. We denounce the unjust economic blockade against Iraq, which has gone beyond all human measures and led to starving its children and to its lofty people's suffering as a result of their national stands in the face of the colonialist onslaught.

Furthermore, while denouncing the U.S. attempts and the feverish imperialist efforts to impose capitulation and to drag the region into further U.S. hegemony and into falling in the abyss of political and economic subservience under the umbrella of the new world order, the Jordanian House of Representatives urges the Arab masses, in the forefront of which is our people in Jordan, to be vigilant and cautious against all the conspiracies that are being hatched against its progress, prosperity, and ambitious national, pan-Arab, and Islamic aspirations.

10 Muharram 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 21 July 1991.

Baker Urged Against 'Confidence-Building' Steps

JN2107124291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 91 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "Putting the Horse Before the Cart"]

[Text] American Secretary of State James Baker, who brings his latest peace mission to Jordan today, is unlikely to hear anything new in Amman except a reaffirmation of the Kingdom's principled position against the backdrop of the momentum given to the peace process by Syria's acceptance of President George Bush's compromise proposals.

It has been conveyed to Washington time and again that Jordan has been and still is very much committed to achieving a just and honourable peace settlement with Israel within the framework of a process which encompasses all elements, dimensions and aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Needless to say, it means, in no uncertain terms, that Israel has to relinquish the Arab territories it occupied during the 1967 war and recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up an independent state. There can and never be any compromise over this.

But if Mr. Baker is pushing his theme of "confidence-building measures" between Israel and the Arab states as a priority before the actual peace process can get off the ground, then the American secretary of state is in for a surprise, given the fact that even a hypothetic Arab consideration of such steps has already been preempted by the Israeli reaffirmation that an exchange of land for peace is not the objective of any talks, if they take place at all. Isn't the entire purpose defeated by this simple Israeli declaration?

In any event, Arabs have given up too much over the years to nothing but Israeli intransigence in return to be taken for another ride along the same route; this time in the form of dropping the boycott of Israel. It is simply a no-go situation, and Mr. Baker would be well-advised not to waste any energy in trying to put the cart before the horse. If any thing, the secretary of state needs to preserve all his prowess for his meetings with Israeli leaders later today.

At the same time, the realities on the ground—particularly in the occupied Arab lands—and the shape of things to come dictate that any opportunity for peace should not be squandered away. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan pointed out Friday, there will not be any territory left to negotiate over if Israel managed to continue to step its decades-old "Arabs-are-not-serious-for-peace" song and dance number and gain time to reinforce its fait accompli—the settlements in the occupied lands.

The Arab side has made its position loud and clear that it is willing for peace based on international legitimacy, United Nations resolutions, recognition of the rights of all parties involved, fairness and justice. Regretfully, that is not the message we are getting from the Israeli side.

Obviously, the question in the air is simple and clear: Will Washington, for once, switch from the stand that it cannot/will not twist the Israeli arm and apply pressure where it is needed?

AL-DUSTUR on Baker, Pressure on Israel

JN2107092191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jul 91 pp 1, 20

[Unattributed editorial: "The Ball is in the U.S. Court"]

[Text] In Jordan, we welcome U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and hope that his meetings in Amman today will result in a number of positive points. We also expect that his meetings here will form a better picture of what is needed to render the peace process successful, lay the pillars to perpetuate it and the dynamics to activate it.

When the U.S. secretary of state arrives, as part of his tour of a number of capitals in the Middle East, James Baker will hear the same ideas he had heard here and in all the concerned Arab capitals in terms of concern for convening a peace conference, and deep concern about the success of the U.S. diplomatic initiative with regard to its principle articles that were defined by U.S. President George Bush in his famous speech before Congress at the beginning of March.

Because we in Jordan realize that the essence of the Israeli position remains unchanged—rejecting, evading, and seeking pretexts that would postpone the sincere search for ways to establish just and comprehensive peace—for our part, like the rest of the Arab brothers, we have done all we could to make real and tangible progress toward convening the cherished peace conference in this region of the world.

We realize that the new settlement projects will, when implemented, judaize most of the occupied Arab land that remains unjudaized. Then, any possible negotiations over it would become meaningless when the Arab land has become filled with Jewish settlements, hundreds of thousands of Jewish emigrants have been planted there, and the Palestinian Arabs have become a minority threatened with evacuation and massive deportation.

Perhaps, the Arab awareness of this painful fact led to the full acceptance of the elements of the U.S. initiative so long as its final objective is to establish just and comprehensive peace based on the international legitimacy resolutions and Security Council Resolution 242 which forbids the occupation of other people's land by force, and stipulates exchanging land for peace and recognizing the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Thus, the Arab position, whose essence was expressed in an almost single formula by the concerned parties, has placed the ball in the heart of the U.S.-Israeli court, and put the United States to a real test, perhaps even the final one, to reveal how serious and ready this superpower is to employ its influence—great influence by all standards—to force Israel to accept the elements of the initiative the Arabs have accepted, bearing in mind that it is a pure U.S. initiative.

While sincerely hoping that James Baker will be able to force Israel toward the peace option through practical and tangible steps, we still believe that the U.S. diplomacy will actually face a resounding failure if Washington—now armed with the support of the seven wealthy countries in addition to the Soviet Union and all concerned Arab parties—does not apply enough political and other pressures to stop the current Israeli rebellion over the international legitimacy, and force this aggressive expansionist state to abandon its logic of force and policy of settlement and annexation, and then accept just and comprehensive peace as a final option.

Editorial Questions Egypt's Call To End Boycott

JN2007110691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed editorial: "Washington's Responsibility is Now Confined To Exercising Pressure on Israel"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the United States' responsibility in regard to accelerating the peace process has now been confined to breaking the obstacles which Israel is placing before U.S. and international efforts.

The Arab side has shown the greatest degree of flexibility and serious readiness to facilitate the U.S. mission on the basis of achieving a peace that is based on international legitimacy, which not even Washington itself can bypass having led an unprecedented aggression against Iraq under the pretext that Baghdad had rejected international legitimacy.

Following the positive Syrian response to President Bush's proposals, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is now receiving full cooperation on peace efforts in the Arab capitals he has visited so far—Damascus and Cairo. Syria has reiterated its conviction toward the U.S. President's determination to achieve a settlement. Cairo's position in this regard was already known.

When he visits Amman tomorrow, on Sunday, Secretary Baker will no doubt find a clear Jordanian stance and a confirmation of the principles of the Jordanian policy toward the peace process, which is based on international legitimacy, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Palestinian people's right to choose their representatives and participate in the negotiations.

These positions were reasserted by King Husayn on more than one occasion, the latest of which was in his interview with the U.S. magazine, TIME. They were also reiterated yesterday by His Highness Prince Hasan in an interview with the U.S. CBS network when he said that Jordan will play its role in the peace process, that the Palestinians are those most concerned with the issue and have the right to choose their own representatives, and that the Arab world wants to see international legitimacy and a peaceful and final settlement. In an interview with the BBC, Tahir al-Masri also explained that Jordan is determined to implement international legitimacy, and emphasized Palestinian participation in the peace process.

Therefore, there is no ambiguity in Jordan's position and the position of the other Arab parties. The problem still lies in the intransigence of Israel, which will not submit to the international will and the UN resolutions, unless there is serious pressure from the U.S. Administration instead of flooding the Zionist entity with unlimited economic and military aid.

In the light of these facts, we are surprised by yesterday's proposal by the Egyptian president following his talks with Baker in Cairo, in which he called for ending the Arab economic boycott of Israel in exchange for halting the building of Israeli settlements in the Arab territories. With this proposal, the Egyptian president has gone too far in offering unjustifiable concessions, which will encourage Israel to go ahead with even more arrogance, blackmail, and inflexibility. The Arab boycott is part of the legitimate Arab resistance against the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories and usurpation of Arab rights for scores of years. Why should we sacrifice it now without any tangible return?

PLO's 'Abbas Reportedly To Discuss Arab Summit

JN1707145891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jul 91 pp 1, 22

[Report by Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has arrived in Amman on a short visit to Jordan. He will meet several officials for coordination and consultations between Jordan and the PLO and to continue the talks Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, held with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials two days ago.

Well-informed sources say that 'Abbas, who had several contacts with Egyptian officials, is trying to hold a high-level meeting among the Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian, and Palestinian leaderships aimed at finding a unified Arab position prior to forthcoming U.S. moves in the region and the visit of the U.S. secretary of state in the wake of the positive Syrian response to U.S. questions and President Bush's message to President Hafiz al-Asad.

The sources were convinced that the atmosphere among the Arab confrontation states—Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO—has become more positive and forecasts the possibility of convening a five-way summit in the near future in light of the understanding among these various parties to confront Israeli intransigence.

Sources added that common denominators do exist among these states. There is a proposal on the possibility of forming an Arab delegation from the five parties to the peace conference to comprehensively discuss the Palestine question, which is to be attended by the United Nations, the United States, the USSR, and the EC states.

Paper Lauds Confidence Vote, Looks to Future

JN1907093991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 91 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed editorial: "Government Won, Democracy Succeeded"]

[Text] Mr. Tahir al-Masri's government deserves to be congratulated twice: First, because it won parliamentary confidence by a large majority, and second, because during the debate it showed a high sense of responsibility despite all attacks the against the person at its head, in particular.

We can say more confidently now that not only the government, but also the parliamentary democracy, has passed this exam. The experience entrenched democracy and established parliamentary traditions that will bolster and fortify the democratic experience yet further.

It was only natural for all citizens and democrats to rejoice and exchange congratulations on the government's winning yesterday's vote of confidence. The popular majority believes that this government is for the country and the citizens, and that its promising young team deserves a chance to meet the challenges contained in the government's statement, which is full of promises, plans, projects, and good intentions.

We now hope that the government, house, and citizens will put the vote-of-confidence session and its proceedings behind them, and that everyone, each in his respective position, will work to fulfill the government's working program and implement all its promises in the economic, social, political, and other fields.

It is perhaps useful for everyone—those who gave their confidence or withheld it alike—to remember that we in this steadfast Arab fortress are still being targeted, and that our national unity is our most valuable asset. Therefore, we should demonstrate stronger unity and renounce every call for division and fanaticism so as to deprive our enemies of the most dangerous weapons that can be directed at us from within.

We repeat our congratulations to the government for this major confidence, and we congratulate ourselves and our country for passing this test with great results. We say again that we should always look ahead by evading trivial considerations, illusions, and bitter sentiments and by becoming accustomed to democratic battles, so that this great experience will become a way of life and a prevailing daily practice.

Israeli Tanks in South; Resistance Reported

NC2207092891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] According to reports from the south, 36 heavy and tracked Israeli tanks, a number of troop carriers, and six trucks were seen crossing the Kafr Huna-Jazzin area today. They deployed on the Rum and (al-Himsiyah) hills which overlook the Lib'a-'Ayn al- Mir-Kafr Falus front.

Israeli military planes conducted low-altitude flights to cover the deployment, which took place at 0500.

In another development, resistance men used rockets to attack a position belonging to the agents' militia in Shwayya Town near the occupied border strip last night. The agents' radio acknowledged the attack today and added that its forces bombarded the Shwayya and Hasbayya towns with 45 shells. Security sources report that the attack caused heavy property damage.

The agents, helped by the Israeli occupation, have been shelling the areas outside the occupied border strip every day since Wednesday.

Further on Buildup

NC2007054291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Tension has been exacerbated in the border area due to a new buildup of Israeli troops and materials there. Reports from the eastern sector indicate that the Israeli occupation forces sent huge armored cars, including Merkava tanks, troop carriers, and sophisticated long-range artillery to the occupied border strip yesterday. The Israeli forces took up positions in al-Majidiyah and Tallat al-Shurayqah near al-Khiyam as well as in Kawkaba, Kafr Huna, and al-Qatranah.

Hizballah Positions Shelled

NC2107164891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Israel is trying to derail Lebanon's peaceful course. Israeli gunboats shelled the road between al-Mansurah and (al-Qulaybah) at 0200 today.

In another development, a unit from the Lebanese Army defused an explosive device consisting of almost 40 kg of TNT near the al-Husayni club in al-Siddiqin.

According to security sources in the south, Israeli military units stationed on the hills in the northern part of the border strip today fired 20 shells at Hizballah positions in southern al- Biqa', causing material damage. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Israeli planes conducted low-altitude flights over Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps today.

Iqlim al-Tuffah Residents Confront Hizballah

NC1907121491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] It has been reported that a confrontation took place in Jba' in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday between Hizballah members and the town's population following the recent clashes between Israeli and Hizballah forces there. The population expressed their indignation over the military operations that have been taking place in their town. A woman from the Ra'd family was wounded during the confrontation.

Hizballah's al-Musawi Asserts No Weapons Transfer

NC2207060591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has reiterated his assertion that the resistance's weapons will not be turned in until Israel withdraws from Lebanon. He said: The Islamic resistance is the option we have chosen, and we will not retreat a single step.

Meanwhile, former Hizballah Secretary General Subhi al-Tufayli has called for firing those he called the treacherous ministers.

PFLP's Salah, Muhsin Ibrahim News Conferences

NC1907135991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The PLO political leadership in Lebanon held a news conference at 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp today. Salah Salah, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Fatah official Zayd Wahbah; and Ramzi Rabah, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, participated.

Salah expressed regret that the Lebanese state has not dealt positively, as the Palestinians have been doing, with the Army's deployment in the south. He indicated there have been many practices that did not match our positive stand, such as sharp and provocative statements, the detention of many holding Palestinian identity cards, and the tightening of the blockade on and the encircling of the camps, despite the fact that during our first meeting with the Ministerial Liaison Committee, we drew its attention to the need to avoid such practices so [Lebanese-Palestinian] relations may avoid tension and the positive atmosphere may not be jeopardized.

Salah emphasized that the Palestinian weapons have been completely withdrawn according to the agreed formula.

Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, has held a news conference in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. He called on Defense Minister Michel al-Murr to halt the propaganda campaign he has waged since adoption of the decision calling on the Palestinians to hand over their weapons to the Army—a campaign with a threatening tone.

Ibrahim believed that the purpose of Minister al-Murr's campaign is to obliterate the positive stand adopted by the Palestinians to voluntarily present their weapons to the army as a gift to give the impression that the Palestinian weapons were handed over as a result of pressure. Another purpose of the campaign is to prolong the talk about the Palestinian weapons and Palestinin presence so as not to quickly start tackling the issue of the south which is one of confrontation of the Israeli occupation. Furthermore, the campaign seeks to justify the siege that is imposed on the Palestinian camps in Tyre.

Ibrahim said Minister al-Murr's statements threaten the positive stand adopted by the Palestinian leadership and contribute to straining Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

Ibrahim called for halting all the harassment of the Palestinian camps and to quickly resolve the security issue so there can be Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue to discuss the civic and social rights of the Palestinian people in Lebanon .

Ibrahim warned against thinking the Palestinians have become weak now that their weapons have been handed over to the Army. These camps are not weak, he said, adding: We will not condone a siege on these camps; the camps will find ways to protect themselves. The patriotic Lebanese, in whose name I am now speaking, are at the forefront of these means.

Ibrahim expressed surprise at Michel al-Murr's comment that the reason for the Israeli shelling of areas in Western al-Biqa' is the presence of gunmen. Ibrahim said this shows that our defense minister's dictionary does not contain the terms Israeli occupation or ambitions in Lebanon.

Al-Amin on 'Weapon' Against Israeli Occupation

NC1907150391 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 19 (AFP)—The Lebanese Army will not disarm guerrillas fighting Israel and its allies in south Lebanon, a Lebanese minister was quoted Friday as saying. "The only weapon which we do not want to seize is the weapon of the resistance against the (Israeli) occupation," Minister of State Abdullah al-Amin said.

"It is not a weapon in centres or in liberated areas, but it is a weapon facing the enemy inside the occupied areas. This weapon will not be seized as long as Israel occupies one inch of our territory," he told the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ.

Under an Arab-sponsored accord to end Lebanon's 16-year-old civil war, the Lebanese Army has disarmed most militias and deployed in the south, except in areas held by Israel and its proxy, the South Lebanese Army.

Most of the guerrilla attacks against Israeli forces have been carried out by the pro-Iranian Hizballah (Party of God) and other Muslim fundamentalist groups seeking to end nearly 10 years of occupation. "Israel will remain clear in its policy towards Lebanon. It wants its occupation and the civil war to continue," AL-KHALIJ quoted Mr. Amin as saying. "In the next stage, we will step up support for the resistance to keep pressure on the occupation forces," he added.

But he said contacts were under way between the government, the United States and the United Nations to persuade Israel and its allies to pull out, without giving details on the talks which he described as intensive.

On the status of Palestinians living in Lebanon since 1948, Mr. Amin said the government would grant them all civil rights but would not allow the opening of a Palestinian "embassy" or accept an alternative to the Cairo agreement, signed 22 years ago, to regulate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi Comments on UN Resolution 425

NC2107085391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that the Lebanese issue should be separated from the Middle East question, and that the UN resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the south, foremost of which is Resolution 425, must be implemented. He said Lebanon cannot wait for the Lebanese crisis to be solved through resolution of the regional crisis.

In an interview with QATARI NEWS AGENCY, he said he will visit Jazzin very soon.

Buwayz Departs for Cairo; To Meet Baker

NC1907183891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left for Cairo tonight to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker tomorrow. They will discuss the situation in southern Lebanon and the peace conference. Buwayz also will meet with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa and with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian deputy prime minister for foreign relations.

In a pre-departure statement, Buwayz said that he expects Secretary Baker to brief him on the latest developments regarding the peace process. He added that Lebanon will express its views on this issue.

Buwayz Returns From Cairo, Comments

NC2107052291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has announced that he told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Lebanon will not participate in any peace conference unless it excludes discussion of Resolution 425, and that Lebanon's probable participation in such a conference will be based upon this.

Upon returning from Cairo last evening, he said: We stressed several points to Baker, including support for implementing Resolution 425, for regaining the Jazzin area as a first and immediate stage, and for establishing an Arab-international fund for reconstructing Lebanon.

Commenting on the Army's entry into the south, he said this measure has enhanced the Lebanese state's credibility and has proven Lebanon has a competent army and a unified political will. Therefore, he added, this entry will reduce Israel's pretexts and excuses.

Buwayz pointed out that his talks with Baker also dealt with the issue of foreign hostages. He said: We stressed to Baker that Lebanon is the primary hostage and asserted that the Lebanes state is trying to help find a solution to this issue, which reflects negatively on Lebanon in more ways than one. He said the Lebanese state will do its utmost to help resolve this issue.

Al-Murr Departs for Damascus

NC2107073391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr left for Damascus today to discuss current developments in the country. He is scheduled to return to Beirut this evening.

Returns 22 Jul

NC2207054891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday and returned to Lebanon last night. He will chair a working meeting at the Defense Ministry today which will be attended by Army Commander General Emile Lahhud; Qasim Siblini, commander of the southern military zone; and a number of security officials in the south. The meeting will study reports on the handover of Palestinian weapons in the Tyre camps.

Al-Murr on Alleged Siege of Camps, Foodstuffs

NC2107060091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Our correspondent has said the Palestinian side tried to create the so-called Palestinian file on civil rights to divert attention from the handover of remaining medium- and heavy-caliber weapons. But the Palestinian side was informed yesterday that this issue is not up for discussion and that what has been applied to the Lebanese regarding rights will be applied to all other groups.

We were informed yesterday that the Ministry of Defense and the Army command tomorrow will receive a report compiled by the competent security organs on the amount of Palestinian weapons received so far.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has voiced surprise over reports that the camps were besieged. He said the camps are being watched until all weapons are handed over. He denied rumors that foodstuffs have not been allowed into the camps. Al-Murr pointed out that 60 percent of the weapons from 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah have been handed over, and that 40 percent of the weapons from al-Rashidiyah have been received.

Minister al-Murr asserted that the Army is implementing a political decision adopted by the cabinet and will forge ahead with its task.

Fadlallah Comments on Solving Hostage Issue

NC2107122091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the current situation in the region is not honorable. He asked who is confronting the United States, and where are those revolutionaries who used to make noise? He asked: Where are those who used to talk about revolution and liberation?

In a speech at the Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd marking the 'Ashura' holiday, Fadlallah said the United States is working to establish Greater Israel in the region to i..terfere in all political, economic, and security affairs, while the Arab states, allied or individually, have no political balance. He stressed: We support peace and encourage internal peace, but how many crimes have been committed in the name of peace?

Fadlallah called for resolving all aspects of the foreign hostage issue and detainees in Israel on humanitarian grounds without separating one issue from another. He held Washington responsibile for complicating this issue.

Arab League Secretary General Arrives for Talks

NC2207081491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Talks between Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz are scheduled to start shortly at Bustrus Palace. After the talks, 'Abd-al-Majid will go to the Provisional Presidential Headquarters to meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

Buwayz received 'Abd-al-Majid on the Lebanese-Syrian border this morning and accompanied him to the Foreign Ministry.

'Abd-al-Majid's talks aim to clear the Arab atmosphere to determine the level of representation at the Arab League's regular session to be held in Cairo in September and to discuss ways to assist Lebanon, particularly in its effort to implement Resolution 425.

More on Mubarak, al-Asad News Conference

NC1907103091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 17 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that he and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the bilateral relations that have bound the two countries together throughout history.

Mubarak said that he exchanged views with President al-Asad on regional issues, the most important of which deals with the Palestinians, and the tour U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has begun in the wake of the Syrian president's positive response to the U.S. peace proposals.

Mubarak made these statements during a joint press conference he held with President al-Asad with the chief editors of the Egyptian and Syrian press.

President Mubarak said that he and President al-Asad discussed their expectations of what the coming stage has in store, now that it has been proven to the world that Egypt and Syria want peace. He added: We discussed the possibilities of the coming stage and how to deal with it. We are waiting to see what the United States will do in the wake of the recent positive Syrian response.

President Mubarak also said that his talks with the Syrian president dealt with the outcome of the Gulf war and the situation in the Gulf region in general. He noted that he has sent a message to the Iraqi president asking him to assess fully and carefully the current situation and to make a decision that will spare Iraq and its people any new losses.

Regarding the future of the peace process, President Mubarak said: We have heard nothing official from Israel since President al-Asad's positive response. We have to wait, not rush, and not jump to conclusions until we meet Baker and get the facts from him.

Replying to a question about the possibility of U.S. pressure on Israel, President Mubarak said that he does not like the word pressure and does not allow himself to be pressured and, therefore, does not want to pressure others. He said: We must speak the language of the age. Israel must be convinced of the need to act to reach a comprehensive solution.

President Mubarak says that he wishes with all his heart that serious progress will be made in the peace process so that the entire region can live in security and peace. Israel must understand that it will be the big winner if a comprehensive peace is achieved, he added.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad spoke about the nature and content of the Syrian response to President George Bush's proposals, saying that James Baker's previous tours resulted in a number of ideas to which we responded positively. We are waiting for an Israeli response now.

He added that Syria made its decisions after studying the U.S. proposals and taking into consideration the new developments in the international arena and Syria's constant desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

President al-Asad said that after an in-depth study of the U.S. initiative, Syria found it to be appropriately balanced and, therefore, decided to agree to the initiative, which is based on Resolutions 242 and 338, and on U.S. President Bush's address to Congress. He said that Syria's approval came in light of all these factors, stressing that there is nothing in the U.S. initiative offensive to Arabs.

In response to a question on whether he is satisfied with the UN role, President al-Asad said that the United Nations is playing an important role and is involved in the process because of its resolutions and observers, which the U.S. plan discusses. He noted that the agreements that will be reached at the conference and during negotiations will eventually be submitted to the United Nations to ratify or decide upon. Commenting on Syria's position on the U.S. plan, President al-Asad gave a Syrian proverb that asks, "Do we want to eat or kill the guard," to which the answer is, "We want to eat and not kill the guard."

Asked if he was optimistic about the region's future following Syria's approval of the U.S. plan, President al-Asad said: This is not the first plan to which we have agreed; we previously agreed to Resolution 338, and to the formula of the peace conference that convened in Geneva, which is still valid from the legal point of view. That conference has not been canceled and never will be because it has not completed its mission, he said, noting that although Syria did not attend the conference's first session it did want to attend subsequent ones. Syria did not attend the first session, he added, because there were certain points of disagreement, and certain parties wanted Syria and Egypt, the two main parties to the conflict on the Arab side, to go regardless of the problems. He said that neither Syria nor Egypt wanted the disagreement to continue and that there was not enough time to resolve the issue before the first session.

President al-Asad said that Syria agreed to the U.S. plan aimed at bringing about a legal solution and UN resolutions. We must always be optimistic, he said, adding that statements by Israeli officials do not call for optimism, but that we must not base our hopes on these statements. He said that the historical background is not encouraging, but that we must say what we have to say, and they must say what they have to. The world must judge between us, he added, and we have a long time before us where real positions will appear before world public opinion. The Syrian president expressed his conviction that the proposed peace conference is international in nature and will be attended by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Nations. He said that the United Nations will attend the conference as an observer, which means that it can participate in discussions but cannot vote. As a matter of fact, he said, in

such a conference no one votes, not us, not Israel, not the superpowers. Therefore, the role of observers and nonobservers is equal.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad emphasized that he and President Mubarak continue to have intensive exchanges, adding: We talk together a lot. We also talk with everyone concerned in the process.

President Mubarak said there are two opinions on how the Palestinians should be represented at the conference: First, that an independent Palestinian delegation should represent them; and second, that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should be sent. The composition of the delegation is not important, Mubarak added; what counts is that a delegation be formed so that the peace process can begin.

Israel says that the Palestinian delegation should be comprised solely of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mubarak said, adding: We feel, however, that the Palestinians abroad should be represented as well. If we want a real peace, he concluded, the Palestinian delegation should be real and realistic.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was asked if the ball is now in Israel's court following Syria's acceptance of the U.S. plan. He said that the issue now concerns the entire international community, whose judgment should be based on convictions and results. The international community should make the appropriate stand, the Syrian president added.

Al-Asad did not rule out the possibility that Israel would continue to reject all plans, but he hopes that this will not happen. He said that past experience shows that Israel is intransigent and tends not to want to achieve real peace in the region. Some Israelis talk about the golden age, he said, adding: We want a golden age for the whole world; we do not want the Arab world to be excluded.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said history has proven that Egyptian-Syrian ties have proven stronger than their differences in opinion. Their history is rich and great and the two countries have confronted all the invasions launched against the Arab nation. Al- Asad said that it has been proven that when Egyptian-Syrian relations are not right, the state of affairs in the Arab nation also deteriorates.

The Syrian president affirmed that Syria and Egypt are committed to the Palestinian issue, saying that he and President Mubarak reiterated this point during today's meeting as well as in previous meetings. He said: We have offered hundreds of thousands of martyrs out of our commitment, which will remain strong. He stressed that the Palestinians will agree with every step we take or we will not take it.

Asked his opinion about when the peace conference will be held, President Hafiz al-Asad said that the Arab side is enthusiastic and anxious, as are the United States and Europe. The problem, he emphasized, rests with Israel. If Israel exhibits its desire with some enthusiasm, the conference may convene soon. The Syrian president said that everyone will be winners if peace is attained, but that Israel will be the big winner.

Speaking about the role of the Egyptian and Syrian forces in protecting the Gulf states, President Mubarak said: A permanent presence in the Gulf states is not required. We are not imposing ourselves, but we are ready to help in defensive operations if asked.

The Egyptian president noted that rumors that Egypt and Syria are seeking a permanent presence in the Gulf are being disseminated by the media, rumors which, he said, aim to divide the region. He added: We say that we do not want a presence in the region; however, we will not hesitate to defend any Arab country if so asked regardless of whether we have an agreement with that country. We would help out of conviction, because we do not operate by the [word indistinct] system.

President al-Asad verified President Mubarak's statements, adding: Neither Syria nor Egypt have any interest in having forces permanently based in the Gulf region. We will not be present in the region if there is no need. He added that the amendments to the Damascus Declaration do not involve substantive issues.

President Mubarak was asked about Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's reply to his latest message. Mubarak said that the Iraqi president has asked the Arab League to form a delegation to ascertain the condition of secret and public nuclear systems in Iraq. If an Arab League delegation cannot be formed, Saddam added, an Egyptian delegation can come in its place. President Mubarak added: I do not speak on behalf of the Arab nation. The Arab League secretary general is studying the views of the Arab countries, Mubarak said, adding that in the end, the decision is in the hands of the Arab League members.

The Egyptian president stressed that he was sincere in his latest message to the Iraqi president, just as he was in all the previous messages. He said: I did not tell him what to do regarding the UN resolutions, but I did appeal to him to make appropriate decisions to protect Iraq and its people from new losses. Mubarak said that had the Iraqi president heeded his sincere advice to withdraw from Kuwait 24 hours before the outbreak of the ground war, he would have put the international community at an impasse. He added: I told him that this would not be a capitulation, but a way to protect the Iraqi Army and people. I would have remained silent were my intentions not good, he said, adding that the Iraqi president is skeptical by nature. When I advise a brother or a friend, it is my advice; I do not pass along other people's advice, and I do not give advice if I am not serious.

President al-Asad stressed that Syria and Egypt will not participate in a strike against Iraq, saying: We were pained during difficult moments, but we were candid with everyone. The Iraqi people are part of our nation

and their current situation pains us. He added: We cannot spare the Iraqi people destruction, but we must not contribute to it. Egypt and Syria did their best to spare Iraq the ordeals of destruction, he said; we had hoped to save it from the tribulations it suffered. We did, in fact, do all that we could, as President Mubarak said, to prevent what did happen from happening.

The Syrian president noted that he sent a message to the Iraqi president linking Syria's fate to that of Iraq if it was attacked after withdrawing from Kuwait with dignity and pride. Unfortunately, I received a very regrettable answer in reply to my message, he said.

President al-Asad answered a question on Iranian-Arab relations, expressing his belief in the possibility of achieving good relations between Iran and the Arab countries. He said: We do not want anyone to be our custodian nor do we want to be anyone's. They have their ideas and we have ours. The important thing is that our relations remain balanced and strong as states. He said he does not believe that everything we hear about Iran's policies represent the thinking of the state. We cannot ignore Iran's role as a historical, political, economic, and military force in the region, al-Asad concluded.

Khaddam Reviews Stand on Peace Process

JN2107202091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today presided over a meeting at the General Federation of the Workers Unions in Damascus for secretaries and commands of party branches, governors, university presidents, and chairmen and members of executive bureaus of popular organizations and central trade unions. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party; Comrade 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president; Comrade 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly; Comrade Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister; the members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; ministers; members of the Party Central Command; assistants to the ministers; and the People's Assembly Bureau; and the chairmen of the People's Assembly committees.

After the assistant regional secretary welcomed the conferees, Comrade 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam conveyed to the comrades President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings and love.

The vice president then presented a political review of the international changes resulting from the post-cold war era, its effects on relations between East and West, and the repercussions of this on the Arab homeland and on the Arab-Zionist conflict. [passage omitted on the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi regime's role in fragmenting the Arab nation]

Khaddam noted that amid the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the Gulf states approached Syria and Egypt seeking military, political, and economic cooperation. The Damascus Declaration, signed by the Gulf states, Syria, and Egypt, was in harmony with the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. He said: We will do our utmost so that this declaration will not be in the interest of the security of certain states, but in the interest of pan-Arabism within the framework of the action to straighten the Arab situation and its course. [passage omitted]

The vice president reviewed the ongoing international efforts to give momentum to the peace process made after the Gulf war and reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Contacts were intensified to reach a formula to achieve peace in the region. At the top of these efforts were the contacts made by the EC, the USSR, and the United States. The U.S. efforts attempted to find a formula for the political settlement within this framework. Discussions were held between the United States and Syria. The Syrian position stems from the following elements:

1. Peace should be comprehensive for all sides, including the Palestinian side. It should be based on international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

2. The convening of an international peace conference in which all concerned parties, including the Palestinian side, will participate, as well as the USSR, the United States, the EC, and the United Nations.

Khaddam explained that, during the discussions, President Hafiz al-Asad received a letter from President Bush, which included the following elements:

1. The United States has asserted its commitment to a comprehensive solution for all sides, including the political rights of the Palestinian people.

2. The solution should be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

3. The convening of a peace conference in which all the parties and the EC will participate under the sponsorship of the United States and the USSR in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 1974.

4. The UN secretary general will be represented by an observer who will brief the secretary general on the progress of work.

5. The United States and the USSR will pledge to work earnestly to give momentum to the peace moves.

6. The United States reiterates its commitment not to recognize Israel's decision to annex the Golan.

7. The U.S. President will continue his commitment in his speech before the Congress, particularly that geography and force do not constitute a guarantee for countries.

8. The United States and the USSR pledge to inform the UN secretary general of the developments.

9. The results will be made official documents in the United Nations and will be endorsed by the Security Council.

The National Progressive Front and the party commands studied this initiative in light of the Syrian political constants and how to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. We found that this initiative constitutes a positive and balanced basis to reach a comprehensive and just peace, to deal with it positively, and to participate in a peace conference on the basis of the ideas included in the American President's letter. In light of this, President Hafiz al-Asad sent a reply to President Bush.

The vice president said: We highlight President al-Asad's major role in the decisions of the National Progressive Front and party commands and in defining the basis for dealing with events in the international and Arab arenas. The Syrian response to the U.S. was a big event in the international arena. This response has changed the course of many events and confused the Israeli enemy.

Concluding his address, Vice President Khaddam said: Syria will work within the framework of the clear strategy defined by the party under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general and president of the republic, proceeding from the fact that while waging this political battle we are neither worried nor afraid, because we know the land on which we stand and know the steps we should take with efficiency and confidence.

Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi on Official Visit

Received by al-Asad

JN1907191591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] At 1930 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Egypt's Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Ministers Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, Mahir Abazah, Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab, Dr. Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar, Dr. Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz, Dr. Ahmad Salamah, Ahmad Radwan Jum'ah Mansur, Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din, Dr. Hamdi 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Bunni.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Egypt's Ambassador Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, and Syria's Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish. The president was briefed on the outcome of the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Committee and the work of the committee that convened at the ministerial level and the progress made toward further cementing cooperation between the two sisterly states in various areas. His excellency the president said he was satisfied with the progress made by the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Committee during its Damascus meetings. The president said: All around cooperation between Syria and Egypt meets the interests of the two countries and the Arab nation.

Meets in Committee With al-Zu'bi

JN1907152991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] At 1100 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The Egyptian ambassador in Damascus attended. The talks dealt with prospects for enhancing Syrian-Egyptian cooperation.

After this meeting, the Syrian Arab side, headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and the Egyptian side, headed by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, held a final round of talks in the second session of the Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee. This round of talks was attended by members of the Egyptian and Syrian delegations.

Al-Zu'bi stressed the importance of the Egyptian delegation's visit, led by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, as well as the importance of the joint higher committee meeting results. He and the Syrian delegation members were pleased with meeting the Egyptians. He noted the fruitful and constructive efforts made by the ministers and technicians from both sides in the crystallization of concepts and the preparation of agreements.

Al-Zu'bi added: The Syrian people witnessed the important meeting between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak yesterday. They saw this meeting as a good omen for accord between leaders of the two countries and the two peoples. This meeting will be a springboard for a great pan-Arab action by the two countries, which used to bear the heaviest burdens in a crisis. The statements Presidents Hafiz al- Asad and Husni Mubarak made to Syrian and Egyptian media and the frankness, clarity, and presentation of the political facts which marked these statements made the Syrian and Egyptian peoples, and the Arab nation as well see what is going on. The two presidents affirmed to the whole world that a just and comprehensive peace is the firm objective of not only Syria and Egypt, but the Arabs as well. President Hafiz al-Asad's response to the U.S. President's letter has indisputably shown that Syria is supporting the Arab and international efforts which seek to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in a just and comprehensive manner, that peace is bound to be comprehensive and complete, and that the international community must act to take the proper stand.

Al-Zu'bi affirmed that the current developments get their positive elements from the Syrian-Egyptian solidarity and also from the consolidation of coordination between them in all spheres. He added that the economic, social, and cultural integration between Egypt and Syria will be the strong foundation for political cooperation between them. He added that the joint

higher committee meetings have bolstered the foundations of the integration process currently under way between the two fraternal countries.

For his part, Dr. Sidqi thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, al-Zu'bi, and the delegation members for the great hospitality accorded him in Damascus and also for the sincere fraternal spirit that permeated the meetings and talks, strongly reflecting the amity and affection the Syrian people have for Egypt. He added that this visit was specially important due to the visit President Husni Mubarak made to Damascus and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. Those meetings conferred a highly significant political character on the meetings held by the joint higher committee and showed the entire world the grand meaning of the meeting held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak and the meeting's importance for supporting international and Arab efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace and secure stability in this region. Syria's distinguished position, embodied in President Hafiz al-Asad's response to the U.S. President's letter, was instrumental in making positive strides toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Dr. Sidqi also affirmed that the Syrian-Egyptian cooperation is in the interest of the Arabs and their solidarity, that it is the correct path, and that the positive results of the joint higher committee meetings make economic, social, and cultural integration a vehicle for achieving further inter-Arab integration. He added that the Arabs have to face the changes and economic blocs through solidarity, integration, and unity. He thanked the Syrian and Egyptian ministers and technicians whose sincere efforts in preparing agreements and achieving the main purpose of the joint committee meetings. He invited al-Zu'bi and the Syrian delegation to visit Cairo for the third session of joint higher committee meetings January 1992.

The two sides then reviewed the results of the preparatory committee's work, as well as the outcome of meetings held between the Egyptian and Syrian ministers and technicians and the agreements drawn up for signature during these meetings.

Prime Ministers Conclude Meetings

JN1907194491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the final round of talks, al-Zu'bi and Sidqi signed the minutes of the second session of the Higher Joint Syrian- Egyptian Committee convened between 16 and 19 July with delegations from both sides in attendance. Meanwhile, Egypt's Finance Minister Ahmad al-Razzaz and Syria's Muhammad Khalid al-Mahyini signed an agreement to preclude double taxation. Also Egypt's Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Yusri 'Ali Mustafa and his Syrian counterpart Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in trade. Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Minister Muhammad Ghubash and the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade signed a protocol on agricultural coordination and cooperation between the two sisterly states.

The agreements seek to widen and diversify the scope of bilateral trade so as to meet the requirements of the two countries and tighten trade ties. The agricultural protocol covers scientific research, agricultural production services, agricultural preventive measures, production of fisheries, agricultural policies.

The bilateral agreement to preclude double taxation aims to prevent income tax evasion in the two countries, coordinate customs rules, and exchange customs and real estate legislation. These agreements should advance cooperation, coordination, and complementarity beween Egypt and Syria and add new achievements to the joint committee meetings.

Ends Visit, Depart 19 Jul

JN1907204191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Egypt's Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and his delegation left Damascus at 2215 today, after chairing his country's delegation at the second session of the Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Receives Arab League Secretary General

JN1907164691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid arrived today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the commissioner general in the Arab boycott of Israel offices in Damascus, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to reporters, 'Abd-al-Majid said: I am happy with this opportunity to visit sisterly Syria. I will be honored to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials. This visit is part of my recent visits to Arab states. My primary goal is to listen to the directives of Arab heads of state and their views on joint Arab action. We are all eager to clear the Arab atmosphere and to contribute toward unifying the Arabs. I am also happy to visit Damascus as the Arab League secretary general to voice my gratitude to Syria for the support it extended me.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added: Undoubtedly, I will have the opportunity to speak to our Syrian brothers on the general Arab situation, and the rapprochement and unity we are looking forward to realizing. I will be discussing these matters in my visits to Lebanon, Jordan, and the Arab Maghreb.

Answering a question on the timing of his visit, given the political activities in Syria to promote the peace process, 'Abd-al- Majid said: I am happy to visit Syria today at an

important phase of joint Arab action. Undoubtedly, Syria's position in my opinion has been and still is prominent, crucial, and basic to the peace process.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that President Hafiz al-Asad's response to Bush's letter means that we are taking the right path, the path which realizes Arabs strength and their convincing arguments to achieve their legitimate rights, restore the Palestinian people's hopes, and effect Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. I believe this constitutes a great and important role. I would like to have the opportunity to receive more information from our Syrian brothers.

Responding to a question on the Arab League role in the peace process, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Arab League implements the desires of the member states, which are independent, sovereign states. The Arab states are prepared and ready to contribute to supporting the peace process and gaining stability. This is an important part of the Arab League Charter to which we are committed.

For his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered a question on the Arab league secretary general's visit at a time when world attention is being drawn to the Syrian capital and following President Hafiz al-Asad's wise reply to Bush's letter. He said: First of all, I would like to welcome my brother and friend Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in his capacity as the Arab League secretary general. We are happy with his visit because it will give us enough opportunity to consult and exchange views to promote the Arab nation's aims. As the league' secretary general, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is very eager to promote joint Arab action, revive Arab solidarity, clear the Arab atmosphere, and do everything he can to strengthen the position of the Arab states and nation in facing the regional and international challenges, especially the restoration of the occupied Arab territories, usurped Arab rights, and establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. I agree with him that we will exchange views on the new factors and the background they form. We look forward to these factors to realize peace and stability in this region.

Responding to a question on whether Syria has specific proposals to present to the Arab League secretary general, given that the League is about to discuss and amend the Arab League Charter, al- Shar' said: Naturally we will discuss and exchange views on all means of strengthening the Arab League's role, and to affirm the League's principles and aims in the interest of the entire Arab nation. Talks will center on regional and international developments, especially in our region, and ways to deal with urgent issues, including the restoration of solidarity and reviving joint Arab action. We agree on this and there are no differences between us concerning Syria's principled and basic stand and the aim of the Arab league within this framework.

Mr. al-Shar' was asked if Iraq's proposal on forming an Arab committee to inspect nuclear reactors will be among the issues to be discussed. He said: We will discuss all issues presented to the Arab League, especially the ones slated for discussion at the upcoming Arab League council session. As I have just said, Syria has always adhered to the League's Charter and will continue to do so. We will extend all kinds of support to the Arab League, represented by its secretary general the dear brother Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Discuss Regional, Arab Issues

JN2007125291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish; and Ambassador Ahmad 'Adil, assistant Arab League secretary general.

The meeting dealt with all aspects of the current Arab conditions and the important role played by the Arab League and its agencies to remedy those conditions and cleanse the Arab atmosphere. The meeting also touched upon the international efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would secure Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights. In this regard, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid praised Syria's positive response to President Bush's letter.

For his part, the foreign minister voiced Syria's continued support for the Arab League to bolster its role and improve the system of its work to serve the interests of the Arab nation and achieve its solidarity and unity.

Talk of Settlements Shows Rejection of Peace

JN2207084291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Blocks the Way Before the Enemies of the Nation", AL-BA'TH says: Throughout its long confict with the Zionist enemy, the Arab nation faced many sharp political, military, and economic crises. These crises were aimed to prevent the Arabs, together or separately, from catching their breath. Through these known crises that need not be detailed, wagers were made on Syria because all people realized its size and role, and knew that under the leadership of struggler Hafiz al-Asad it pioneers the confrontation of the dangers surrounding the nation, and is capable of warding off these dangers through positions that gained world admiration and gathered the Arab masses from all arenas of struggle. Each battle had its type, time, and weapons. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its repercussions in all fields, the Arabs found themselves amid a grinding political battle in view of the fact that the only victor and beneficiary of the Gulf war was Israel.

AL-BA'TH adds: Therefore, there were many wagers first on the Arab situation, and second on Syria's role in the region and the world. The clear objective of all the wagers and pressures was to isolate Syria from the international changes, then impose capitulation on the Arabs—in other words, to impose an Israeli peace which is outwardly a deception of the international community, and actually opens the road of expansion before the Zionist enemy as the enemy plans and dreams.

Syria, however, through leader al-Asad's wisdom and ability to deal with the changes, has blocked the road before the enemy and returned the ball to the enemy's court. Hence, the enemy is confused, isolated, and exposed before all world countries that seek peace and justice, renounce injustice, war, and aggression.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Leader al-Asad's great positions are not only for the sake of Syria, but also for the sake of a nation that looks forward to its rights without making concessions or bargains. Seeking peace and justice is a normal right of all peoples. When the world stresses that we are peace advocates, this means that we have won one of the most important rounds of our ongoing conflict with the enemy until we attain our legitimate objectives which the world supports with conviction and respect.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: It is very clear that Israel's leaders have not budged an inch on their positions that are hostile to peace, justice, and right. They insist on thwarting the U.S. proposals and all international endeavors. They face the sincere Arab movement toward peace with a completely opposing trend that would exacerbate the situation and push it to explode, thus increasing the suffering of the Palestinian people. No one in the world, not even in Israel, is unaware that peace cannot be attained without ending the occupation and withdrawing from the Arab territories under occupation since the 1967 aggression, and without allowing the Palestinian people to practice their legitimate rights—foremost being their right to self-determination. No one in the world, not even in Israel, is unaware that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—adopted by the international community, the Bush administration, the European Community, and the United Nations as a basis for the cherished settlement—stipulate Israel's withdrawal in exchange for Arab peace. How do Sharon and Arens claim that Israel is building settlements on its historical land, and where do the borders of this alleged land stop? Did not Sharon himself speak of Israeli plans that include the entire Arab homeland, in addition to Islamic countries?

TISHRIN continues: As much as Syria adheres to peace and is committed to work for a lasting and comprehensive settlement, it insists on the restoration of all Arab occupied territories and is committed to guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people. It will not make concessions or forfeit any part of the occupied territories. Leader President Hafiz al-Asad stressed this in his statement to Syrian and Egyptian journalists: Israeli withdrawal is a principle condition for peace; the Arab territories must be returned to their owners; and there is no alternative to dismantling the settlements. When President Bush and the entire world demand stopping settlements, this demand includes a call for Israeli withdrawal in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. As for the enemy leaders' talk about the continuation of building settlements, it indicates their rejection of peace, insistence on occupation, and determination on aggression. Certainly, the world will not remain silent toward Israeli intransigence. The world must do the right thing to save the region and world peace from Israel's reckless and arrogant policies.

'Rare and Historic' Opportunity for Peace Seen

JN2007064991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen, in its editorial this morning the newspaper AL-THAWRAH talks about Damascus' political and diplomatic position and its principal role in the peace process in the region.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is natural for Damascus to assume this position. It has always been the center of regional and pan-Arab decisionmaking. Hafiz al-Asad has always been an extraordinary leader and a leader of this decisionmaking. In Damascus, the future of the region is in the making, and its content and direction hinge on Damascus.

AL-THAWRAH says: For almost half a century, the Arabs have been accused of being anti-peace, aggressive, and of rejecting any settlement, while they were in fact the victims of Israeli aggression and expansionism. President al-Asad's decision comes from Damascus at the decisive moment to prove to the entire world that Syria and the Arabs are advocates of a just and comprehensive peace. The world's reaction to President al-Asad's decision to accept the U.S. initiative, and the extraordinary welcome given to the Syrian response to Bush's proposals—a welcome that was accompanied by amazement and astonishment—may have been due to the critical change in the concepts and expectations that had prevailed in the majority of countries in the world, which used to think that Syria and the Arabs did not wish to achieve peace—a notion that Zionist propaganda has successfully marketed for the past half century.

AL-THAWRAH also talks about the firm and principled Syrian position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and its uniqueness with regard to international legitimacy. The paper says: You see that Syria has not bargained over or abandoned anything. It has not abandoned any Arab right. This has been the case with Syria for at least the past 20 years. Syria has always supported the implementation of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria has also supported the peace conference, with the participation of the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Nations, and the European Community. In its move toward peace in response to Bush's initiative, Syria is

concerned about the principles of its position, and adheres to international legitimacy's resolutions and the two above resolutions. President al-Asad is thus saying to the whole world: Here is the Arab nation and Syria—they support a just and comprehensive peace; they support international legitimacy. The world will subsequently realize that Israel is the party that rejects peace and international legitimacy and its resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH calls on international legitimacy to assume its role now that Israel's disobedience has been clearly exposed. AL-THAWRAH says: This will be a major decision at a decisive moment. The world and the United States must therefore make the major decision at the decisive moment.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its editorial by saying: When the Arab media say that Hafiz al-Asad's Syria is the guarantee and the center of pan-Arab decisionmaking, the pan-Arab equation, and the comprehensive view, Arabs are in fact acknowledging an existing objective reality. Hafiz al-Asad has always been like this, and will remain so now and in the future.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: It was not surprising that the Syrian position received such great international appreciation and that the United States, the Soviet Union, the industrialized nations, and the Arab countries have seen in this position an extraordinary and very significant step. Syria has never paused before the exterior of things, but looks only at their substance. The U.S. proposals contained in President Bush's letter do not depart from the declared and official U.S. commitment to implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for the desired settlement. What Syria is interested in is Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to their land and homeland. The two resolutions call on Israel to withdraw and recognize Palestinian rights.

TISHRIN says: Israel can no longer resort to its traditional maneuvers, dance on two ropes, or formulate fancy statements that contradict day-to-day practices. Peace and settlement activities do not meet under the same roof. Nor do peace and occupation. If Israel is interested in peace, then there is a rare and historic opportunity to convene a peace conference and achieve a just and comprehensive settlement on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

TISHRIN concludes its editorial by saying: Any Israeli position that does not include a candid, unconditional acceptance of the U.S. proposals will be considered by the entire world to be a rejection of peace and an aggression against international legitimacy and its resolution, which would require a decisive stance to correct things, as was the case with the Gulf crisis, especially since the savage Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people has not spared one child or woman, and has become the primary issue and concern of the international community.

Israel Deemed 'More Intransigent' After Response

JN2107144691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Whenever the gap between the constituencies for true peace in the region and the possibility of achieving it becomes narrower, Israel goes farther in its rejection of all international efforts aimed at bringing about a just and comprehensive solution. Efforts are taken back to zero and once again the gap is widened between the abstract peace and the tools of its implementation under circumstances that have never been so appropriate in more than four decades.

Whenever the world overcomes an obstacle to peace in the region, it finds itself in front of a new obstacle placed by Israel. Their aim is to divert attention and absorb world enthusiasm for pushing the peace process forward so that the world will reach the brink of despair and wash its hands of the attempt, which on several occasions took it to the brink of success. Over the years of Arab-Zionist conflict, Israel has been instigating the world against the Arabs and setting conditions for peace through the international media. Howvever, today Israel is not in a position to say anything except absolutely reject peace—the idea and the reality—through its rejection of the conditions that it once claimed necessary to turn the page of Arab-Israeli conflict and establish peace in the region.

With the accomplishments of the world over the past five months, in terms of establishing true peace, and with the positive Syrian response to the U.S. peace proposal, it is no use for Israel to capitalize on its influence over international media and instigate the world against the Arabs or dictate its terms again after raising impossible conditions. World media knows enough facts about the region's crisis and the positions of the parties in the region that they can unmask Israel's true position, concealed for all these long years. All Israel's terms have fallen, and Israel has nothing to do but explicitly disobey the world community and announce a war against peace.

After Syria's response, which enjoyed the admiration and appreciation of the world, Israel's position on the peace conference became more intransigent. In their statements, the Zionist leaders show stronger adherence to the land and the policy of settlement, which Arens, the Zionist war minister, has described as a main strategic element of the Zionist policy.

What, then, will Secretary Baker find and hear in Israel? How will the wheel of peace move, now that Tel Aviv has blocked all roads? How long will the world wait for Israel's hot heads, which are still burning with rancor and lust for aggression, to cool at a time when the entire world is moving toward peace for the good of people and the progress of nations?

Israel Told To Join Peace Moves or Face World

JN1907161291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria's sincere accommodation of peace efforts and its clear-cut position—possibly smoothing the road for a fair and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute—has been universally applauded. Syria's affirmative response to the U.S. proposals has been commended by leaders of the United States, the USSR, and many others. Arabs and Palestinians have also been highly appreciative. President Husni Mubarak held lengthy talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus to coordinate moves, and President Bush sent his secretary of state on a fifth regional swing to clear obstacles from the path of the peace conference.

Recognizing Damascus as the key to peace in the region, and appreciating its constructiveness, Secretary Baker made Damascus his first port of call. Emerging optimistic from in-depth talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Baker emphasized the importance of Syria's constructive step to open new horizons and overturn old assumptions, placing the historic responsibilities on the shoulders of all parties involved. Israel bargained for a negative Syrian response that would make it easier for Israel to wiggle out of the obligations entailed by peace, and buy it more time to bring in more and more Jews to occupied Palestine and build further settlements in occupied Arab territory. Israel wants more time to displace Arabs from the occupied land, Judaize the land, and alter its history and demography, and then confront the international community with a fait accompli. The Syrian response, both in its timing and content, has dealt a body blow to the enemy's present and future plans. Israel had come to think Baker's fourth tour was the end of his mission. Baker would not take up his efforts to promote public U.S. commitments made before the U.S. Congress. Israel had been encouraged to think along these lines, since it had sought to burden his task by a series of no's and impossible conditions. The U.S. proposals incorporated in Bush's letter do not go beyond an official American commitment to see to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the territory-for-peace formula. The Israeli conditions are calculated to hold up the peace process and dissuade the U.S. Administration from pursuing its efforts. Against this background, and after consultations with Arab brothers, Syria decided to accommodate the U.S. proposals so that Israel is denied the chance to shift the emphasis away from the key provisions of the proposals, namely Resolutions 242 and 338, and the rights of Palestinians to their land and homeland. The Arabs do not expect the international community to do more than promote the implementation of these resolutions, terminate the suffering of the Palestinian people, and halt the Judaization of the occupied Arab land. Granted, Secretary Baker's tour takes in other countries in the region, but it is Israel that will make or break his mission. It is up to Israel to make the next move. Shamir can no longer do any maneuvering, foot-dragging, or misleading. Israel will have to either accept or reject the peace proposal. Their rejection would, in effect, give the United States an alibi to take a firm and resolute stance against it, especially since Israeli compliance with the will to make peace is now a pressing international demand that will stand for no further postponement or foot-dragging. Having shown responsiveness to the U.S. proposals, Syria is, effectively, telling Israel to choose between joining a real peace process resulting in its withdrawal from occupied Arab land, or risk a showdown with the entire world. Either way, the Arabs will come out winners. Although the Arabs would prefer to build a fair and comprehensive peace in the region, be spared wars and tension, and build itself a prosperous future.

Paper on Israeli Efforts To Avoid, Foil Peace

JN2107075291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Would The World Translate Its Denunciation of Israel's Intransigence Into Action," AL-BA'TH says: It has become clear to all those who follow the peace efforts to achieve security, stability, and justice in the region that the closer these efforts, which enjoy the support of the world community, get to crystallizing the appropriate and balanced formula for the international conference, the harder Israel tries to keep away from, and avoid, and even foil them under the pretext of unfounded and deceptive excuses and justifications.

AL-BA'TH says the desired peace does not accept any interpretations that do not fall within the accepted framework stipulated by the international resolutions. AL-BA'TH also says the letter sent by leader al-Asad to the U.S. President and the facts he pronounced during the press conference he held with President Mubarak constituted a model and strategic expression of positions that serve not only peace, but all mankind.

The paper adds: To state the obvious, the Middle East question, or the Arab-Israeli conflict, has been, and still is, the greatest danger that threatens security and stability in the world. What has defused that danger were probably the international developments and their results, which made the world head toward building things away from the threat of explosion.

AL-BA'TH also touches on the Israeli position that rejects peace and says that Israel alone adheres to the position that is hostile to peace, and, subsequently, to the world community and its fateful tendencies.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: When we see and hear the positive reactions stirred by leader al-Asad's positions in various capitals and the appreciation and admiration those positions won, we must stress the need for and importance of making a clear distinction between he who advocates and desires to achieve peace, and he who fights peace and tries to keep it away.

Afghanistan

Group Denies Role in Kidnapping of Americans

BK2107163091 Hong Kong AFP in English 2558 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 21 Jul (AFP)—The Afghan fundamentalist resistance group Hezb-e Eslami Sunday denied involvement in the recent kidnapping of two Americans working for a British organization in south-eastern Afghanistan.

"Hezb-e Eslami is not invited" in the kidnapping, which appeared to involve a Shiite group known as the Nahzat-e Eslami, said Hezb Political Department Chief [first name indistinct] Hilal.

Initial reports on the kidnapping, which took place around July 7, indicated that two Americans were detained by two Hazari tribe guerrilla chiefs, identified simply as Wasiq and Salman respectively of the Nahzat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami groups in the Jaghori region of Ghazni province.

Mr. Hilal said that no commander by the name of Salman was operating in the Jaghori region.

"We are trying to find out what is going on," he said, adding that the Hezb had been alerted by "Pakistani agencies" about the affair.

"It is not a good action," he said in reply to a question.

The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan, citing the Privacy Act, was continuing to observe an information blackout on the kidnapping.

A spokesman however reiterated that U.S. policy was not to pay "ransom for hostage-taking."

"We don't know of any ransom," the offical added.

According to Afghan sources, the two Americans were working in Afghanistan for a small British organization identified as Global Partnership when they were abducted.

The British Embassy in Islamabad had no information on the group, but aid groups in London said global partnership was involved chiefly in development of environmental projects.

The Afghan sources said it was linked to a U.S.-based Christian organization called Cooperative Services International.

The abduction of the two, from Camden, New Jersey, and Decatur, Texas, according to the sources, became known a day after the release of 30-year-old Frenchman Xavier Bouan, who was also working for an American company subsidized by USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development]. He had been held 12 days by members of the Ittehad-e Eslam Sunni group in the neighboring province of Zaboul.

A source close to the Hezb-e Eslami said some Afghan guerrilla commanders had been cut out of aid distribution organized by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency, and that the spate of anti-American incidents might be their way of taking revenge.

Rocket Explosion Stops TV Broadcasting in Kabul

BK2207064591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, 22 Jul (AFP)—A powerful blast, attributed by a government spokesman to an outgoing rocket, rattled Kabul Monday as Moslems prepared to celebrate an annual religious festival in the Afghan capital.

The loud explosion occurred at 9:00 a.m. (0430 GMT) in the Salan Wat area, where the Afghan state television station is located.

Kabul TV stopped broadcasting after the blast, but it was not known if the interruption was linked to the explosion.

Diplomats said they saw soldiers on the streets near the TV tower, but could not give details.

A government spokesman said the noise was that of a medium-range surface to surface missile being launched from Kabul, but added that he did not know from which area it had been fired.

"The blast was an aftershock of a Luna (surface missile) fired by soldiers towards an enemy target," the spokesman said. He could not explain the 90 minute interruption in television broadcasts.

There was no visible damage to the television tower.

Mojahedin Destroy Two 'Strategic' Positions

BK1907152591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mojahedin have destroyed two militarily strategic mountain positions near the capital Kabul. The Kabul regime was using the positions to carry out misssile attacks on the mojahedin. In the operation, the mojahedin destroyed many tanks and killed many Kabul regime troops. Two Kabul regime officers surrendered to the mojahedin. Observers note that with the occupation of these two positions, the mojahedin can now again increase pressure on Kabul from the south.

Another report says Kabul troops vacated 16 security posts south of the capital. These posts were located between Daulatabad and (Qadir Qila).

Rebels Repulse Attack; 30 Kabul Soldiers Killed

BK2107094291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0900 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of more clashes between mojahedin and Kabul regime forces. Mojahedin repulsed an attack on their positions by the Kabul regime forces in Baghlan Province. At least 30 Kabul soldiers were killed in the operation. Mojahedin also destroyed 12 tanks of the Kabul forces. Another report says that in a retaliatory step, the Kabul air force indiscriminately bombed rural areas in Baghlan, killing 30 citizens, including women and children.

India

Principal Collaborator in Rajiv Gandhi Case Held

Shanmugam Arrested by SIT

BK1807163491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The Special Investigation Team [SIT] probing the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has said that one Shanmugam, alias Jayarajan, arrested yesterday is the principal collaborator of the accused Sivarasan and Subha. In a press release in Madras today, the SIT said that Shanmugam hosted a reception at Vedaranyam, a coastal town of Tamil Nadu, when the accused Sivarasan, Subha, and Dhanu landed from Jaffna before the assassination.

Leads Police to Explosives Cache

BK2007040091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The special investigation team [SIT] probing the Rajiv Gandhi assassination has unearthed a big cache of high-grade explosives and communication equipment from a coconut grove at Kodiyakadu a coastal village in Tanjavur District in Tamil Nadu. According to police sources, the seizure was effected last night following a confession made by Shanmugam, one of the suspects arrested in connection with the assassination case. The cache, which included 121 boxes of landmines and hand grenades, 25 high frequency wireless sets, and about 3,200 litres of petrol and diesel, were kept buried in the grove outside the village. The suspect is reported to have high-level connections with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. He is also believed to have hosted a reception to the prime accused in the case when they landed in the coastal area from Jaffna. [sentence as heard]

Suspect Found Hanged From Tree

BK2007091291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The body of a key suspect in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, N. Shanmugam, has been found hanging from a tree near a bungalow in Vedaranniyam in Tanjavur District of Tamil Nadu. Police sources said it might be a case of suicide, but they did not rule out homicide. Our Madras correspondent understands that Shanmugam, who was taken to Vedaranniyam two days ago, was cooperating with the police in unearthing a huge quantity of high-grade explosives and sophisticated communication equipment from the area. Shanmugam was kept at a government bungalow where his uncle met him yesterday evening and reportedly chided him for bringing disrepute to the family. Police sources said some time later Shanmugam opened the backdoor of the bungalow on the pretext of washing his hands and disappeared into the surrounding area. A police search party found his body this morning.

Shanmugan Said Linked to LTTE

BK2007132491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 20 (AFP)—An Indian arrested in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination has died mysteriously after escaping from police custody, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Saturday.

The body of V. Shanmugam, who surrendered to police this month, was found hanging early Saturday from a tree in his hometown of Vedaranyam in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the news agency said. Official sources were quoted as saying it was not clear whether he had committed suicide or was killed for cooperating with Indian authorities probing Mr. Gandhi's May 21 slaying. "Maybe he was killed or maybe he committed suicide. It is not certain and we should get to the bottom of this," an official told PTI. The news agency described Mr. Shanmugam as "a veritable mine of information" about the activities in Tamil Nadu's coastal areas of Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the prime suspect in Mr. Gandhi's grisly murder. His death was "a big loss" to the investigation, it added.

Mr. Shanmugam was one of 13 people arrested for their alleged involvement in Mr. Gandhi's assassination in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumpudur town. He allegedly regularly smuggled arms from Tamil Nadu for the powerful LTTE, which is fighting for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka and is known to smuggle men and materiel from the Indian state. Investigators said he also knew the suicide bomber who killed Mr. Gandhi as well as the other suspects wanted for the murder.

In a related development, a Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla suspected to be a friend of the mastermind behind Mr. Gandhi's murder was arrested near Cuddalore town in the coastal state overnight Friday. Mahendiran (eds. one name), 35 and a top LTTE member, was caught with three Indians who were sheltering him, PTI said. Mahendiran, believed to be a nom de guerre, was suspected to have "close links" with Sivarasan, the suspected intelligence chief of the LTTE who is said to have planned Ghandi's assassination. Indian investigators have declared a $40,000 reward for the capture of

Sivarasan, who has been on the run since the murder. The news agency said Mr. Shanmugam's body was discovered following a "massive" search launched for him Friday night after he gave the slip to nine policeman after dinner. Police said he stepped out of his house to wash his hands, and "in lightning speed escaped into the darkness and disappeared." Mr. Shanmugam had Friday helped the police unearth a huge quantity of explosives, communication equipment and fuel cans that had been buried near his house in Vedaranyam and were to be smuggled to the LTTE. PTI quoted official sources as saying that he was flown from Tamil Nadu capital Madras to his hometown by helicopter after he volunteered to show places in Vedaranyam "where LTTE had hidden arms and explosives." Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu are divided by a narrow strip of sea, and the LTTE has regularly ferried arms, food, medicines and fuel from India to its fighters in the island. One of its favourite landing points was Vedaranyam, which with its vast streches of swamps and coconut groves, provided a perfect cover for the rebels' flat-bottomed plastic boats.

Mr. Gandhi died when a woman, suspected to be a Sri Lankan, detonated a powerful plastic explosive strapped to her while pretending to touch his feet at an election rally.

2,000 Sri Lankan Tamils Said Arrested in South

BK2207030891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1706 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP)—Indian police have arrested about 2,000 Sri Lankan Tamils in the southern coastal state of Tamil Nadu after the lapse of a deadline for them to register with police, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Sunday.

The crackdown on violators of the deadline, announced June 28 to separate guerrillas from among the thousands of Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, was continuing in the state for a second day Sunday, the news agency said.

About 100 were arrested in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu, where only half the estimated 10,000 Sri Lankan Tamils living outside of refugee camps had registered with police, PTI said. The Tamil Nadu State Government, controlled by the regional All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), has warned violators of "severe penal action" including deportation.

In all, about 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamils, 115,000 of them housed in government-funded refugee camps, live in Tamil Nadu, separated from the island nation by the narrow Palk Strait.

The drive to weed out militants from refugees was started in the wake of the May 21 assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed by a lone woman suicide-bomber in a Tamil Nadu town.

The assassination is suspected to have been carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who for more than two years fought Indian troops Mr. Gandhi sent to Sri Lanka in 1987 to crush their separatist campaign.

Meanwhile, seven federal members of parliament demanded stern action against the special investigating team (SIT) probing Mr. Gandhi's assassination, blaming SIT for the mysterious escape and subsequent death of an Indian Tamil suspect.

"The incident has amply proved that it (SIT) is neither capable, nor willing to conduct a sincere and proper investigation," the MPs from Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party said in a joint statement.

The body of V. Shanmugam, who surrendered to police this month, was found hanging Saturday from a tree in his hometown of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu where he took a police team to (?dig up) an arms cache.

Whether he committed suicide after escaping from SIT's custody or was killed for collaborating with the investigators is not known.

He was one of 13 people arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder Mr. Gandhi. According to SIT, Mr. Shanmugam regularly smuggled arms, food and fuel from Tamil Nadu for the LTTE, and briefly sheltered the assassination squad.

Mr. Shanmugam was cremated in Vedaranyam Sunday at a funeral attended by a large number of local Tamils after an inquest which revealed external injuries on his body, PTI said.

Rao Discusses Economy, Punjab Polls, Unrest

BK1907125291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister has called for a consensus on the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. Mr. Narasimha Rao has also indicated that elections in Punjab will be held after ensuring that secessionism does not become the poll plank [as heard]. He was replying to the four-day debate in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the president for his address to the joint session of Parliament.

Mr. Rao ruled out denationalization of banks and said the banking system will be revamped. He said the goverment will come up with a package of industrial reforms in a few days which will bring about a change without affecting continuity. The prime minister announced that the eighth plan will begin from the first of April next year. During his 90-minute reply, Mr. Narasimha Rao dwelt at length on economic issues and said the government's approach is problem-oriented and nonpartisan.

The prime minister said he has already held consultations on Punjab with leaders of some political parties and more talks will be held in a couple of days. These

talks are aimed at exploring measures to tackle militancy, which he said is posing a threat to free and fair elections.

About Kashmir, the prime minister called for bridging the gap between the people and the administration.

Wants Consensus on Mandal Report

BK1907162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The prime minister has called for evolving a consensus on implementation of the Mandal Commission report. He said there are many noncontroversial recommendations in the report, which can change the lot of the backward classes. Mr. Narasimha Rao was replying to the four-day debate in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the president for his address.

The house later adopted the motion with a voice vote after rejecting all amendments. [passage omitted]

Mr. Rao denied the charge that economic decisions have been taken on the basis of the observations in a World Bank report. He said instructions have been given to circulate all important reports to the concerned ministers and the prime minister. This follows the failure of the officials to show the World Bank report to Mr. Chandra Shekhar when he was the prime minister. [passage omitted]

About Kashmir, the prime minister called for bridging the gap between the people and the administration. He said it is unfortunate that Islamabad continues to support militancy in the Kashmir valley despite New Delhi repeatedly asking it not to do so.

Mr. Rao said the Minorities Commission will be given statutory status and a package of measures will be taken to create an atmosphere of safety and security for the minorities.

On foreign policy, he said there is a national consensus on nonalignment and it should continue.

Seeks Political Party Cooperation

BK2007131191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has called upon the political parties to cooperate with the government in solving the national problems. In an impassioned plea, he asked them to keep the areas of disagreement aside and to jointly face the challenges.

Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the president in the Rajya Sabha today, he assured the members that nothing is being done under pressure from any agency or on the basis of any report. The house later adopted the motion by a voice vote after rejecting or allowing withdrawal of nearly 400 amendments. The motion was passed by the Lok Sabha yesterday.

Planned Release of Kidnapped Oil Executive Fails

Prisoner Exchange Arranged

BK1907162391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the authorities have agreed to release five persons in return for the safe release of the IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] executive director, Mr. K. Duraiswamy, after prolonged negotiations with the kidnappers during the last two weeks. The state governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, in a statement in New Delhi said that the government suggested simultaneous exchange under mutually acceptable conditions to which the kidnappers have not agreed so far. They are pressing for prior release of their five colleagues as a prelude to the release of Mr. Duraiswamy. The statement said the kidnappers' final response to the government regarding the modalities of the exchange is awaited.

Meanwhile, the state government has described the reported statement of the kidnappers'n intermediatory to some journalists that the government has gone back on the understanding regarding the release of five persons as factually incorrect.

Three Kashmiri Militants Freed

BK2007143091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 20 (AFP)—India freed three jailed Kashmiri militants Saturday for the negotiated return of an oilman abducted more than three weeks ago, the Press Trust of India reported.

The three were released by the government at 6 p.m. (1230 GMT) in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and taken in auto-rickshaws to separate locations, the news agency said.

The names of the trio and their destinations were not given. A separatist group, Ikhwan-ul-Muslime (Moslem Brotherhood), kidnapped K. Doraiswamy on June 28 as the 58-year-old executive director of the state-owned Indian oil corp. Was on a visit to Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Rebels Demand More Releases

BK2107093491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, July 21 (AFP)—A Moslem militant group in Kashmir said Sunday it would not free the Indian oil executive it seized 24 days ago until the government released seven more guerrillas from prison.

The Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen said the Kashmir state government must free the jailed rebels by Monday if it was to release the hostage, K. Doraiswamy, an executive director of the state-owned Indian Oil Corp. (IOC).

A Muslimeen spokesman said in a telephone call from an undisclosed location that one of the three prisoners the Kashmir government released Saturday as a part of a prearranged swap was not a member of their group.

The spokesman did not say what the outlawed group would do if the authorities did not concede to its latest demand, nor did he name the seven guerrillas it now wanted released.

After seizing Mr. Doraiswamy here June 28, the Muslimeen guerrillas initially said they would free him when the authorities released five prisoners including their deputy leader, Javed Ahmed Shalla.

After lengthy negotiations the government bowed to the kidnappers' demands, reportedly freeing three guerrilla prisoners around 6:00 p.m. (1230 gmt) Saturday, triggering rumours that Mr. Doraiswamy's release was imminent.

However, sources here said Nazir Ahmed Siddiqui, a local businessman who is mediating between the government and the militants, had not returned home since he left Saturday to try to secure Mr. Doraiswamy's release.

No official reaction to the Muslimeen's latest statement was available.

Moslem guerrillas, who the Indian Government says are backed by Pakistan, are fighting for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Their campaign and the authorities' (?efforts) to crush it have left more than 2,500 people dead since early 1990.

Doraiswamy Not Free Despite Pact

BK2107152491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the militants have not released Mr. Doraiswamy, as agreed upon, but have instead demanded the release of seven more terrorists, including the dreaded Javed Ahmed Shalla. The state government has expressed concern over the shift in the stand of the militants, saying it causes serious misgivings. A state government spokesman said there is now need for convincing proof that Mr. Doraiswamy is safe and well. Three militants were released yesterday as part of the agreement reached between the state government and the kidnappers. Under the agreement, five militants were to be exchanged for Mr. Doraiswamy. He was to have been freed within two hours of the release of the first batch of the three militants. The other two militants would have been released after that. The abductors did not kept their part of the agreement. The state government remains committed to the full implementation of the agreement and is awaiting the response from the abductors.

Maoists Kidnap 2 Government Officials, Bank Head

Comrade's Release Demanded

BK2007091991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, two state government officials and a bank manager were kidnapped by Naxalites [Maoist militants] in Karimnagar District yesterday. The kidnappers are demanding the release of one of their activists. Police have launched a massive manhunt.

Officials Released Day Later

BK2107134291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1250 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] today released three kidnapped officials in Karimnagar District. This follows the release of one of the activists of the People's War Group on bail yesterday. These officials were kidnapped on Friday.

Pawar: Military Modernization Drive To Continue

BK2107090691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said there will be no compromise in the drive to modernize the Armed Forces. Addressing the sailors of the Western Naval Fleet in Bombay yesterday, Mr. Pawar said the recent Gulf war has demonstrated the importance of modern electronic warfare, and the country cannot afford to go slow on updating high technology for the Armed Forces. The defense minister also asked the countries supporting Pakistan to restrain it from giving continued clandestine support to subversives in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

Iran

Involvement in Iraqi-Kurdish Clashes Denied

LD2007155991 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi today strongly refuted Iraqi allegations that Iran was involved in the recent clashes between the government troops and the Kurds in Iraq.

He also denied as "sheer lie" a claim by Baghdad that Iran had carried out reconnaissance flights over Iraq.

Iraq's representative at the United Nations Friday claimed that Iran was involved in the recent clashes between the government troops and the Kurdish people, and that it had carried out reconnaissance flights over Iraq.

"Such claims are made in line with the previous Iraqi policies of deviating the public opinion from the internal

situation in that country, and blaming others for the internal unrest and calamities in Iraq," Sarmadi said.

Ahmad Khomeyni Assails U.S. Mideast Presence

LD1807182991 Teheran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Brigadier General Afshar, commander of the Basij resistance force; officials and members of Tehran's Basij resistance units; Mr. Gharazi, the managing director of the Social Security Organization; this organizations's officials and employees; and children of martyrs from the town of Sari, were received this morning by Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Jamran mosque.

In a speech at the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni elaborated on the history of Shi'a struggles against threats of subversion facing revolutionary Islamic thinking. He continued: In the course of the Islamic revolution, likewise, there have been groups and currents attempting to divert the trend of the popular Islamic movement, but his eminence the imam never permitted the slightest deviation. Under present conditions, too, we will go astray, if we fail to appear on the scene standing behind the Vali-e Amr [guardian of the cause], defending the system and the revolution.

Regarding international conditions and the new global polarization, Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: America's new order is none other than total U.S. and Israeli domination over the Middle East region. America is determined to establish Israel's superiority over the Muslims of the region. The imam repeatedly warned us of the danger posed by America and Israel, and under present conditions, too, the leader of the revolution has cautioned Muslims of the region against allowing America into the region. The new world order is tantamount to the adoption of a stance against an Islam whose seed was sown by the imam and irrigated by our honorable martyrs' blood. Muslims of the region should know for sure that the realization of America's new order in the region will threaten the fledgling seed of the Islamic revolution. We must all align in unison in a struggle against the enemies of the region's interests.

Islamic Leader Condemns Iraqi Shrines' Closure

LD2007181691 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—A senior Iraqi opposition leader on Saturday lashed out at the Iraqi regime for keeping the holy shrines in Karbala' and al-Najaf closed to pilgrims and for banning mourning ceremonies held every year in the month of Moharram by Shi'ite Muslims.

Muhammad Baqir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) also blamed Baghdad for continuing to destroy the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala'.

"The Iraqi regime has destroyed mosques built by people as well as public libraries," Hakim told a visiting delegation from the World Federation of Shi'ite Muslims.

The Saddam regime has placed its special military forces on full alert in a bid to prevent any unexpected events, the SAIRI leader said.

Expressing concern about the health of Grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i, al-Hakim quoted reports reaching here from inside Iraq as saying that the ayatollah's physical conditions were deteriorating and that he was under tight security surveillance.

Rafsanjani Comments on Visit to Province

NC2007070091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province on 18 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. Progress and development can be achieved if we continue along the path that has been laid down. While part of this path is being studied another part is being implemented.

My impression of the province from what I saw these last two days, and based on my discussions with officials, people, and provincial representatives, is good. Frankly speaking, this province was deprived before the revolution due to neglect by the old regime. Some believe that it was ignored intentionally because the area did not cooperate with the regime. In addition, the old regime's general policies were such that it did not pay any attention to remote and deprived areas. Suffice to say that the situation here was bad and its resources were not used at all.

The second point is that, frankly speaking, many efforts have been exerted since the revolution, something I did not believe before my visit. These efforts have been multifaceted. Many roads have been built in this province even though road construction is extremely difficult here. The province's telecommunications have improved greatly. The use of water resources is much better. From the airplane we saw many dams and projects that are being built. The area covered by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran is relatively wide; I understand that it can reach everyone. In short, the people behind these high mountains can receive the country's mass media.

In the industrial field, activities have been carried out and better activities are being implemented. Five industrial cities have been planned, some of which are now active.

We saw that much has been done since the revolution for the tribes and their problems, electricity and water distribution, health, agriculture, etc. These benefits have expanded in the cities. Activities in the field of religion, science, and the Free Islamic University— which now has approximately 5,000 students—and the Higher Education Complex have been good.

On the whole, we should be satisfied regarding these achievements. This area's historical backwardness, however, is so great that it cannot be overcome easily. In addition, the worth of activities being implemented here for the sake of the nation and neighboring provinces is such that we should accelerate them.

The people of the province are nice, revolutionary, noble, hard-working, content, devoted, and sincere. I was unable to go everywhere because my time was limited. I found the people that I met in the four or five places that I visited to be nice, sincere, and zealous. The clergymen here are extremely active. The coordination here among clergymen, Majlis deputies, and officials—the governor-general and others—was interesting to me.

During my talks with officials here I saw that the majority know their duties and programs well, and that they are sympathetic and follow up things. This shows that the future of this province is in good hands.

The list of important activities that should be carried out here is long. I hope I can remember all of them. One priority is the completion of the roads that link the province with the outside: The Khuzestan road—the Esfahan-Khuzestan road—through Shahr-e Kord, the road to Khuzestan through Izeh, and the Bazoft road which links Khuzestan through Masjed-e Soleyman. The construction of these roads will have an important impact on the province.

First of all, transportation will be much cheeper because the trip will be 300 km shorter, and 300 km in the transportation of large volumes of goods means a big saving in vehicles and fuel. Secondly, it will link Khuzestan province to your province, which is hot and needs an outlet to an area with better climatic conditions. Esfahan, which also has transportation problems and has to send its raw materials and products a long way away, will have better access once its link with the southern ports both through Borujen and through Shahr-e Kord is improved. These routes are also important for your province because the tribes and the villagers can use them. Once this route passes next to the rivers, the entire area will develop. People will invest here and these two roads will change the face of the province. I was very interested in these roads from the start. I helped in the past and will help more in the future to get them completed. Fortunately both roads are in their final stages.

Another thing we need to improve on here is gas distribution, which is directly related to the province's industrialization. Gas should reach the five industrial townships that have been planned. It has gone to some areas, not to others. If we improve distribution, the townships will become alive much quicker.

Because of the province's nature and environment, investment by capitalists here seems very favorable, mainly because there is enough water here—something which many parts of our country lack. There is sufficient land. The climatic conditions here are good and pollution is not an issue here. Enough workers live here and more should be attracted to the area in the future because this is a tribal area and tribesmen carry out all types of work. The tribal youth need new areas of work and this will be useful both for the country's industry in general and for the area in particular. We should also expedite the establishment of industries here.

We heard a lot about water during our visit. There are fields here which either have rich springs or are located next to rivers. On the river banks there are many places where major agricultural projects can be implemented by water-pumping. Both the building of dams and the transportation of water through pipes or by water-pumps, as well as the use of the underground resources is possible here. Limestone deposits exist here and great quantities of water can be extracted, this water can be used in many ways. These are things we need to work on. We need to see how to better use this area's water and soil resources.

It is also important to pick suitable methods of farming here. As stated by the minister of construction, we plan to plant 10,000 hectares of walnut trees on the banks of Bazoft River. If this plan is implemented, estimates are that about 5 billion tumans will be produced annually. This is something that the natural environment here can offer.

The problem that exists here is the destruction of forests and of pastures. Many pastures have been destroyed or are being destroyed because of unemployment and the existence of very traditional and ancient animal-herding methods which are very backward. These methods should be improved through industrial animal husbandry. We do not want to deprive the people here of animal-herding, but wish expand it through increased know-how. Pastures should be revived and forests should be preserved so that we can use them in the future.

Animal husbandry industries and activities that are necessary here in the field of agriculture can greatly help the people. This area can become a center for exports because it is close to the south's ports and its products are very useful for the south. They can even implement a plan to export large amounts of potable water which is greatly needed by the people in the southern Persian Gulf. In this way, they can help the people in the south and realize a good income.

I also believe that the tourism industry here can become extremely fruitful. This area has a nice climate and extremely beautiful scenery, including rivers, high mountains, forests, and snow-covered peaks on which skiing competitions can be and have been organized even as late as July and August. There are many tourist attractions here that Iranians, especially those living in Esfahan and Khuzestan, which need an area like this, would enjoy. Investments should be attracted. Hotels, motels, and inns can be built along the entire mountainous routes and near the peaks.

Finally, this area can be an immense source for energy for the country due to the hydroelectric potential of the area. The mountain peaks here reach over 4,000 meters above sea level. The large water resources along these routes can be used to turn every point into a power plant. One day, when we can, we will be able to supply the country's electricity from this area, replacing electricity with energy extracted from fossil resources is something we very much need to do. [sentence as heard] We are not making correct use of the mountainous regions of our country which are great resources we should put to use.

Cultural activities are a serious must here. People here have been poor and very few cultural and religious centers were set up here. Fortunately the 'ulema and the Friday imams here are setting up a seminary which can train good scholars from among the people here and for the people here.

The place for higher education is here. This area can become a center for higher education due to its climate and geographic location. Professors and manpower from Esfahan and Khuzestan can be attracted once the two roads are built, which should definitely be emphasized. Fortunately the Development Council has approved the plans for a university here which will replace the Higher Education Complex.

This area also needs an airport. We see, thank God, that the airport is already under construction. Activities have progressed more than planned. Preliminary steps for its implementation have been taken. What we can do is to accelerate these activities so that the weak points of this province—job shortages and the chronic joblessness of the youths here—will be overcome.

The field of apiary is a very good, sweet, and easy source of income. Thank God this field exists but it should be expanded.

There are many other issues to discuss, but I cannot recall them now.

Commentary Critical of U.S. Peace Efforts

LD2107220491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was able to get the consent of the Saudi officials on an Arab-Israeli peace conference yesterday. At the end of [words indistinct] with Baker in Jeddah last night, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal brought up the issue of an Arab gathering to bring peace to the Middle East. This proposal has been made in view of Syria's stance towards the U.S.-proposed peace plan, positively [word indistinct] on Baker's talks in Damascus, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's Friday statement. In his recent meeting with Baker, Mubarak tried to create a favorable situation by suggesting that Arab countries will cancel their economic sanctions against Israel if the Zionist regime stops setting up Jewish settlements in the occupied land. But the Zionist regime has opposed this, as well as participation in an international peace conference. Anyway, Baker will try on his (?tour) to create a balance in the involved parties' views, to lay the grounds for holding such conference. Some political observers believe that Baker's trip to the region, especially to Syria, and getting Hafiz al-Asad's agreement to the U.S. peace plan is part of America's diplomacy. Actually what is obvious is that, after the Persian Gulf crisis and in view of the new international circumstances, the Middle East region has now taken a greater portion of America's diplomatic efforts than before. In fact, the U.S. is trying to wipe out what it considers major threats to its interests in the area, among them the age-old [word indistinct] between Muslims and the Qods occupying regime, as well as Islamic tendencies. So, from the U.S. point of view, the first thing to do is to find some control levers in the area, to guarantee access to the Middle East energy resources. For this reason, at this juncture of time, the U.S. shuttle diplomacy has been concentrated in the Middle East, which has been the origin of an anti-U.S. and anti-Zionist regime campaign; so removal of conflicts between the Arabs and the Israelis is one of the most important elements of this diplomacy. Even though the U.S. has been somewhat successful in doing so, yet it shouldn't be forgotten that the final word is with the people of the region, who have in recent years intensified their campaign, seriously demanding severance of this [word indistinct] influence of the U.S. in the area, and no compromise with the Zionist regime.

Commentary Warns of 'Catastrophe' in South Iraq

LD2007213691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] As the Iraqi refugees in the south of that country have once again been besieged by the government troops, (?the situation in the south and the conditions) [words indistinct] the marshes of Hawr al-Hammar have assumed special significance. According to a UN official, the UN secretary general's special envoy, Sadruddin Aga Khan, had sent a protest note to the Iraq foreign minister in this connection, protesting over the redeployment of heavy and semi-heavy weapons by the Iraqi troops around the marshes.

The Iraqi regime had withdrawn its troops from the region last week after a visit to Iraq by the special envoy of the secretary general and his talks with Iraqi officials on the plight of the refugees in the southern marshes as well as ways to provide them assistance. After his talks with the Iraq foreign minister and other officials of that country, Sadruddin Aga Khan called on the UN Security Council to relax economic sanctions against Iraq.

The request created mixed reactions in international circles and in the Security Council. Now that the marshy region has been besieged again and the people living there have been restricted in their movements, the situation of Muslim refugees in the south has become critical. Meanwhile, it is said that the Iraqis have also driven out the UN officials who were busy providing assistance to the Iraqi refugees in the southern marshes.

(?Their lifting) the siege of the region last week and the Iraqi Army's new measure aimed at putting the Muslims in southern Iraq under pressure means that the Iraqi regime is using the issue of southern Iraq as a tool to get the Security Council sanctions relaxed. Furthermore, under the cover of what is going on in northern Iraq, the regime intends to put an end to its problems in the southern and bring them under control.

However, reports on the plight of the Iraqi refugees in the marshes and the [word indistinct], economic, and sanitary conditions indicate that an irreparable human catastrophe will take place if the problem is not dealt with. These reports say that immediate action should be taken to dispatch emergency aid to the refugees in these regions. On the other hand, the besieging of these regions again by the Iraqi troops not only shows that the Iraqi regime does not honor its commitments, but it has also created doubts among UN officials regarding the lifting of some of the economic sanctions against that country. However, it seems many of the problems faced by the Iraqi people after the Persian Gulf war can be reduced by handling the country's internal problems logically and sincerely by the Iraqi regime.

Pakistan

Kashmir President Qayyum Khan Resigns 20 Jul

BK2007102291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has resigned. This has been stated in an official notification issued in Muzaffarabad today. After his resignation, the speaker of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will discharge the duties of the president.

Former Kashmiri Premier Rathore Said Released

BK1807022891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1822 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, 17 Jul (AFP)—The central government released Wednesday the former prime minister of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, state-run television said.

Mr. Rathore, an ally of national opposition leader and former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto, was sacked and detained July 5 after he triggered a constitutional crisis by rejecting the results of June 29 elections to the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir assembly and defied the central government by ordering fresh polls.

His release came amid threats by Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to launch anti-government rallies in Pakistan on the issue of government proposals to seek emergency powers to fight crime in the country.

The opposition had demanded Mr. Rathore's release as one of its main conditions for a dialogue which the government has said it wants to hold on the law and order situation.

The detention had spurred demonstrations by Mr. Rathore's political workers in Azad (Free) Kashmir, the name for the Pakistani part of the territory divided between India and Pakistan.

A high court this week ordered the federal government to produce Mr. Rathore before it on July 21 for a hearing.

Constitution Amendment Bill on Crime Detailed

BK1907025591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] The National Assembly tonight passed the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill 1991 aimed at ensuring speedy dispensation of justice in the prevailing abnormal conditions in the country. The bill, which was piloted by the minister of state for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, was adopted by votes in excess of the necessary two-thirds majority.

The bill makes two changes in the Constitution. With the addition of a new Article 2-12 B, it provides for the establishment of special courts for the trial of heinous offenses. It enables the federal government to constitute by law as many special courts as it may consider necessary in order to ensure speedy trial of cases of persons accused of heinous offenses specified by law in view of their being gruesome, brutal, and sensational in character, or shocking to public morality. The heinous offenses in question will be referred to special courts by the federal government or an authority or person authorized by it. Special courts shall consist of a person who is or has been or is qualified for appointment as a judge of the high court and is appointed by the federal government after consultation with the chief justice of the high court. It provides for the constitution of as many

supreme appellate courts as the federal government may consider necessary for an appeal against the sentence or final order of a special court. The chairman of the supreme appellate court shall be a judge of the Supreme Court to be nominated by the federal government after consultation with the chief justice of Pakistan. It will consist of two judges of the high court to be nominated by the federal government after consultation with the chief justice of the high court concerned. Both the special court and supreme appellate court shall decide their case or an appeal within 30 days. Proceedings of or the orders or sentence passed by the special court or a supreme appellate court shall not be challenged in any court. The 5th Schedule of the Constitution has been amended to raise the salary and pension admissible to judges of the Supreme Court and high courts. The president has also been empowered to revise salaries and pensions of the judges of these courts as and when that becomes necessary. The step has been taken in view of the ever increasing cost of living.

The Article 2-12 B regarding the establishment of special courts shall remain in force for a period of three years and shall cease to form part of the Constitution and stand repealed at the end of this period.

The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said the constitutional amendment bill passed by the National Assembly tonight has full support of the nation as it would enable the provision of speedy justice to the people. Talking to newsmen at the Parliament House after the passage of the bill, he said the support extended by the house in its passage was exemplary. This would help in giving the punishment to those involved in heinous and sensational crimes. He said the passage of the bill is part of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] manifesto to provide justice to the people at their doorsteps. He described it as the first phase of the steps taken for the provision of inexpensive and speedy justice to the people. The prime minister said the police force was also being reorganized to serve the common man according to his expectations. The police force would be made a reliable institution for which work was in hand at a faster pace.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said they wanted to take the opposition along in all important legislative matters. Some of his senior colleagues met the opposition members in this connection and sought their cooperation in the passage of the amendment which was aimed at assisting the victims. He, however, regretted that the opposition did not cooperate in this important constitutional amendment. Asked to comment on the voting of three PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members in favor of the amendment, the prime minister said everybody acted according to his conscience.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said one-third of the money received by the government from denationalization will be used for strengthening the country's defenses, one-third on health, education, and other social sector programs, and one-third on the repayment of debts to rid the country of huge foreign loans.

President Urged To Reject Bill

BK2107133491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] In Pakistan, opposition parties have urged the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, to reject the constitutional amendment bill giving extraordinary powers to the government. The controversial bill was passed in the Pakistan National Assembly without any debate on Thursday. The opposition parties led by the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in a letter to the president, said the government has bulldozed the legislation through parliament.

Sharif Message on 'Accession to Pakistan Day'

BK1907162791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] The Accession to Pakistan Day was observed today by Kashmiris throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir, occupied territory, and elsewhere in world with the pledge to continue their struggle to achieve the right of self-determination. The day marks the adoption of the historic resolution in Srinagar this day in 1947 by the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference in support of the accession of the state to Pakistan in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. A number of social and political organizations organized rallies and meetings in connection with the day where speakers paid great homage to freedom fighters for their struggle against the Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir. Special prayers were offered after Friday prayers for the liberation of occupied Kashmir.

A large public meeting was organized in connection with the day in Muzaffarabad, where Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's message was read out, in which he asked India to find a just solution of the Kashmir problem through talks with Pakistan, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions to maintain peace and stability in the region. He stressed to the international community the need to take note of the Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris and to use its influence to solve the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. Nawaz Sharif said that Kashmiri brethren are today reaffirming the pledge made 44 years ago by the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference. He said that, due to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri freedom fighters, the long-standing Kashmir dispute has once again become the focus of attention by the world. The Islamic world is feeling the burden of the Kashmiris due to the Kashmiri brethren's genuine sentiments and the principled stand of Pakistan. The Kashmiris are writing history with their blood, and their sheer determination to achieve the right of self-determination reflects their just stand. The prime minister said Pakistan will never compromise on the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination because the Pakistani people's heart beats in unison with their

Kashmir brethren's heart. It is a universal fact that a nation ready to give supreme sacrifices can never be enslaved. He asked India to read the writing on the wall and cooperate to solve the Kashmir issue in a just manner in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan said that the current struggle in the occupied territory is the continuation of the 1931 movement launched on the basis of the two-nation theory. He added that the Muslim Conference government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir will try to play a role in the freedom struggle.

A huge rally was held after Friday prayers in the main Jama Masjid in the capital of occupied Kashmir Srinagar, where the Kashmiri people expressed their determination to free the occupied area from the Indian yoke at any cost. Processions and demonstrations in almost all cities and towns of occupied Kashmir marked the Accession to Pakistan Day. Speakers at rallies and meetings condemned the heinous crime of Indian troops against the innocent Kashmiri Muslims, and urged the international community to pay attention to violations of human rights in the area to eliminate the serious threat posed to the peace in the region.

Afghan Scud Missile, Planes Violate Territory

BK1907024091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan has strongly protested to Afghanistan the flagrant violations of Pakistani territory by forces loyal to the Kabul regime. The Kabul regime's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday, and was told that Afghan forces fired a Scud missile at the Ali Mangal area of Kurram Agency on 5 July. Two Kabul regime aircraft violated Pakistani airspace in North Waziristan Agency and dropped a bomb on 12 July. The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked to convey to the Kabul regime the message that all responsibilities for the serious consequences of such premeditated and unprovoked attacks will rest with Kabul authorities.